BULL SESSION WITH TONY AYALA JR.

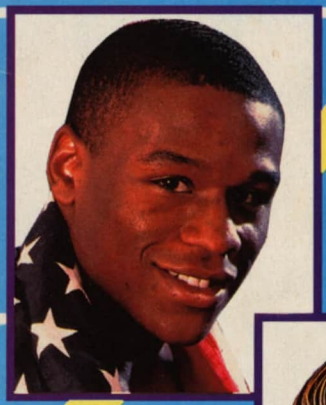
"I Was A Major Jerk ...But I've Done My Time"

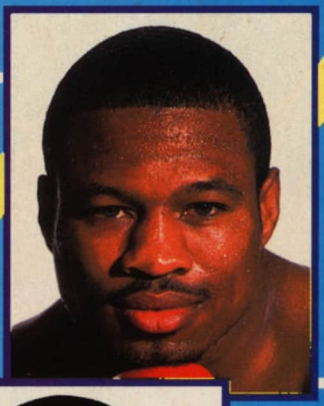
the RING

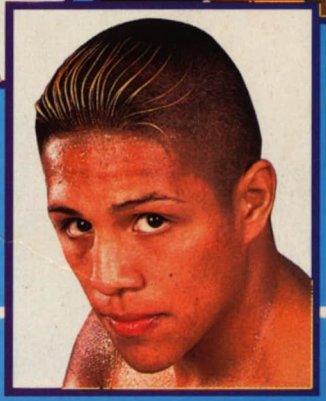
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

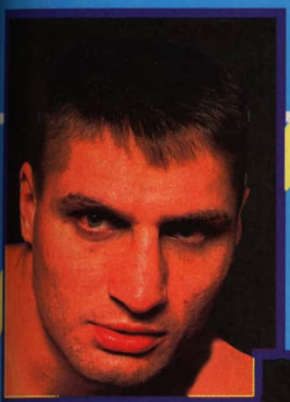
Taking Stock In The Fight Game

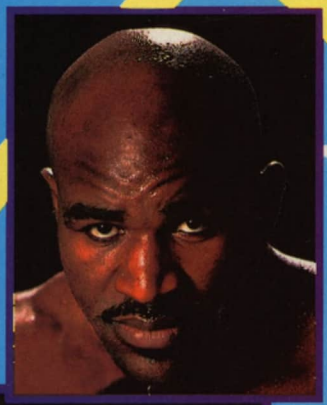
WHO'S HOT











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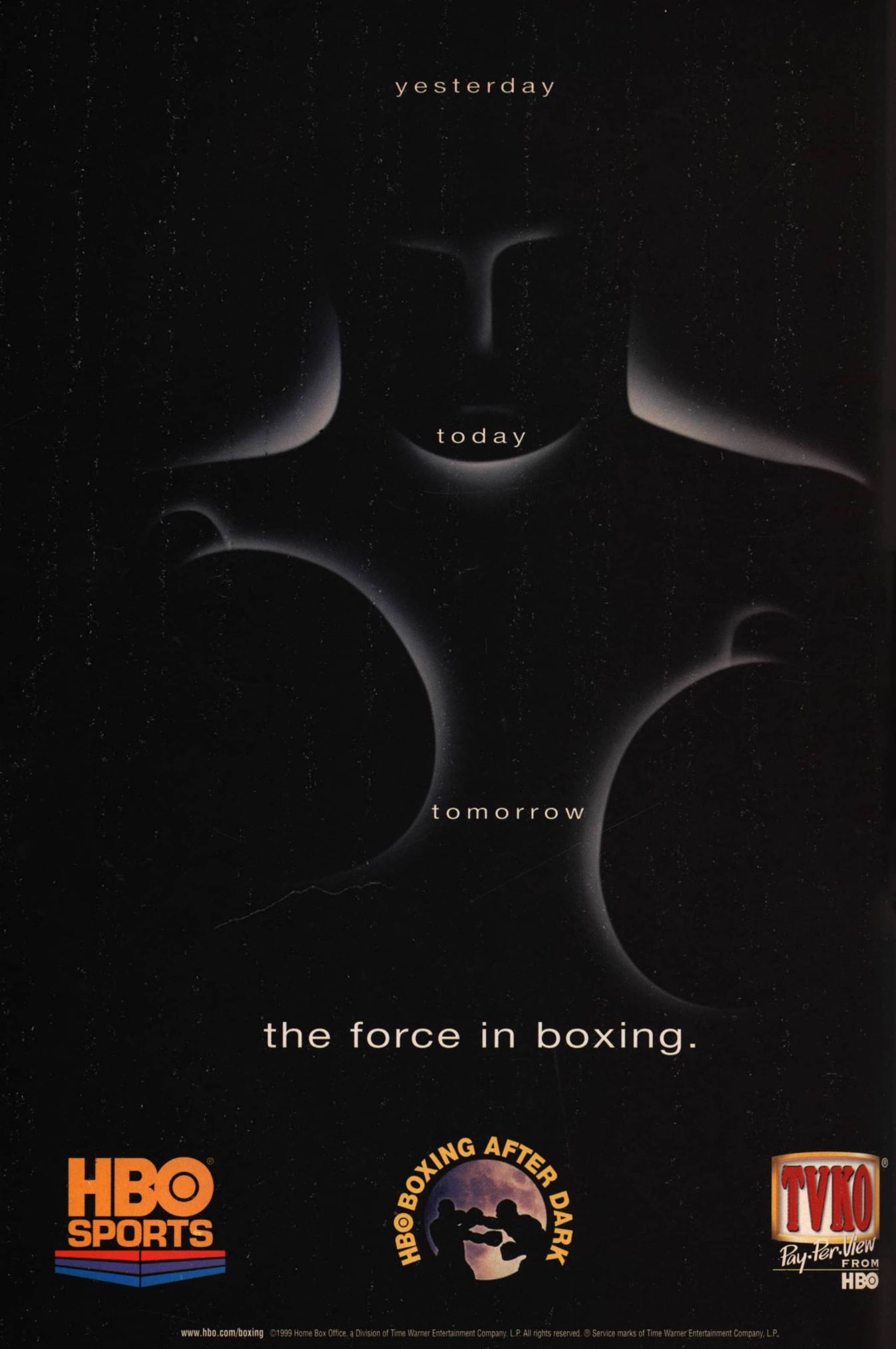
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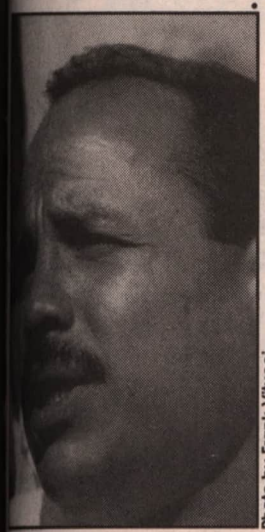

Photo by Frank Vitucci

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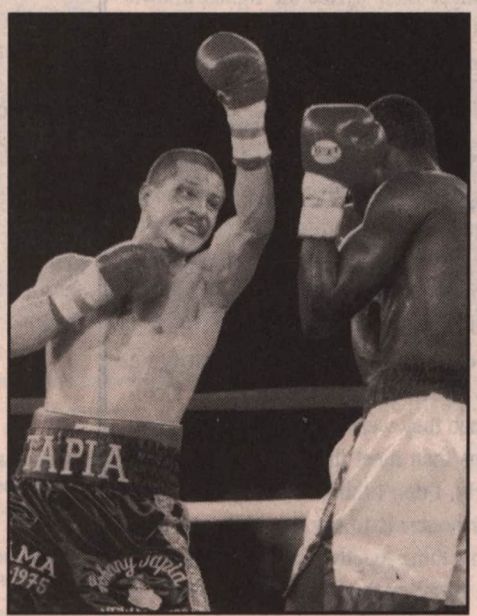

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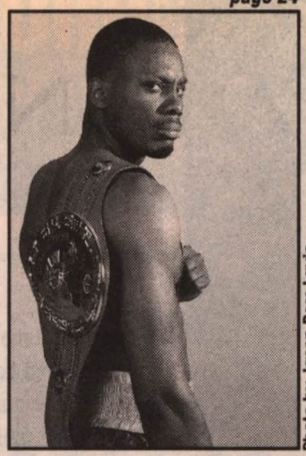

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

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RINGSIDE

There are some people who think that Tony Ayala Jr. should still be behind bars and that a convicted rapist should never be given an opportunity to earn millions of dollars in a boxing ring. I understand their point of view, but do not agree. Unless our already Draconian criminal justice system starts executing all violent offenders, most of them are going to get out of jail eventually. If you take away the hope of doing something positive with their lives once they are released, you also take away a major motivation for rehabilitation.

Boxing has long been a vehicle for redemption, especially for men who have been incarcerated for violent crimes. Some, like IBF middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins, have made the best of their second chance and become model citizens. Others, such as two-time former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, have not. But at least they had boxing to fall back on after their sentences were served. Most prisoners are released back into society with little to look forward to except a minimum wage job or a return to crime. If boxing can help chip away at the disturbingly high recidivism rate, I'm all for it.

Today, Ayala is fighting two battles—one to reestablish his boxing career, the other to prove to the world that he really is a changed man. While the fighter known as "El Torito" addresses both his personal and professional redemption in "Bull Session With Tony Ayala" *(page 35)*, it's doubtful we'll know for sure whether or not he's going to be successful for some time yet.

Readers who have studied my picks in major fights over the years know that I'm far from clairvoyant. But the guess here is that Ayala will have more problems inside the ring than on the streets. He's 36 years old, and the wisdom that sometimes comes with age is not easily transferable to the prize ring, where youthful reflexes usually rule supreme. Ironically, it was the other way around when Ayala was running roughshod through the junior middleweight division in the early-1980s. Inside the ring he could do no wrong; outside his life was a disaster.

The parallels between Ayala and Tyson are easy to see: Both were electrifying sluggers who captured the public's imagination with strings of brutal knockout victories, and both had their boxing careers derailed when they were sent to prison for rape.

"I think there are more similarities between us than meet the eye," said Ayala a few days after gaining his freedom. "Unfortunately, I don't think Mike Tyson is prepared at this point to get real. He'll say whatever he needs to say that moment, then he'll have his outbursts. I really do hope he gets his thing together, man. He has more of an opportunity than most people on this earth. More so than me. This is what, his second, third time in the joint? But ultimately, it's up to him."

There are also parallels between Ayala and Hopkins, who was a dangerous street thug before 56 months in the slammer helped turn him into an individual worthy of admiration. And if Ayala is half the man Hopkins is, even failure in the boxing ring will not deter him from winning the biggest fight of his life, the fight to be judged by who he is today, not by who he was 16 years ago.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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LOST FAITH IN HOLYFIELD

Where is the godly knight in shining belts?

On March 13, a most startling thing occurred in the boxing world. I am making reference to t Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis fight and the outrageous decision the judges returned in the e The sentiments of the world were clearly demonstrated by boos from the crowd. There is no need belabor the filthiness of the decision-making body in the boxing fraternity. My concern is the w Holyfield dealt with the situation.

Let me say I have been a fan of Mr. Holyfield since the very earliest days of his career. Th was so much to admire in him, particularly his commitment and dedication to boxing. He h worked hard and has reaped a just reward for his labors. However, this was not one of those oc sions on which his rewards were just. The situation was aggravated further by his docile accepta of a clearly bad decision on the part of the judges.

Had Holyfield been the virtuous warrior he formerly portrayed himself as, he would have risen the occasion and made a statement to the powers-that-be that such an act of injustice was unacce able. He should have denounced the decision and surrendered his belts to the man who deser them. The fact that Holyfield did not has tarnished his image and has disillusioned millions world over as to who he really is. Is he worthy of the status of an international role model? Wh he not standing up and doing the right thing in this instance? People worship Holyfield as a para of values, and we expect more of h

Mr. Holyfield, you had the opp tunity to become an even grea champion in defeat than you h ever been as a winner. Only you ch the coward's route and refused speak up. The world would have w shipped at your feet, even in y hour of physical defeat, had you ac nobly. Ultimately, you would h been the unquestionable winner, instead,, you failed yourself and world. Your inaction seems to say there's not a shred of decent fiber in you.

CLIFFORD MUNR
Albany, N

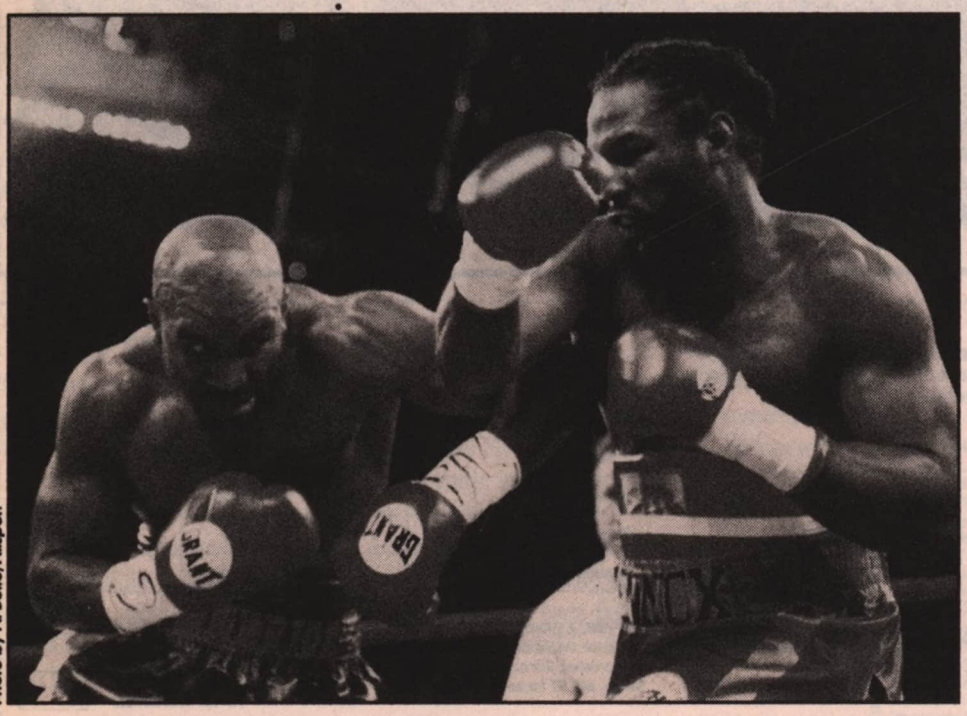


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

By not admitting defeat following his heavyweight unification bout against Lennox Lewis, Evander Holyfield showed a lack of class, according to reader Clifford Munroe. "The Real Deal" lost the chance to be an even greater champ in defeat than in victory, writes Munroe.

OSCAR AND NAZ UNPROVEN

I've been a boxing fan for 2 my 26 years and a fan of THE RING almost as long. I have to admit I become upset—not with boxing,

with boxing media. I've been reading articles about how Roy Jones should give away 40 pounds to fight Evander Holyfield, how the only way Sugar Shane Mosley can prove his greatness is if he fights at 140, and how Floyd Mayweather needs to move up and fight Mosley. Why do the three best boxers in the world need to prove anything?

The guys who really need to prove something are the ones who build a career by fighting superstars past their prime or undersized young fighters who keep you saying, "What was that guy's name again?" I am talking about guys like Oscar De La Hoya, who did impress me in his loss to—*oops*, I meant victory over—Ike Quartey. De La Hoya showed me a little in that fight. The other one, Naseem Hamed, has not shown me anything.

I have an idea. Why doesn't De La Hoya put on a few pounds and meet Roy Jones at 168? De La Hoya wouldn't make it out of the first round. What about Hamed? If he is so sure he can beat anyone up to and including junior welterweights, why not fight Mayweather? He would not last three rounds with Mayweather, that's why. I know that will never happen, because De La Hoya and Hamed don't really want to prove anything.

TARUS HUDSON
Hutchinson, KS

THE TWO FACES OF BEIRO

I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to the readers of THE RING for their selection of me as the third-best ring announcer in boxing. That distinction by the fans of "The Bible Of Boxing" is an honor that I take quite seriously. A special thanks to the editors of THE RING for undertaking the survey is also in order.

M. MARK BEIRO
Tampa, FL

Just who in the hell do your pencil-neck readers think they are selecting me as the second-worst ring announcer in boxing? Why, if I weren't such a gentleman, I'd punch out all who shared in that opinion. I demand a recount and will anxiously read THE RING for a retraction from the readers of that assessment of my "work."

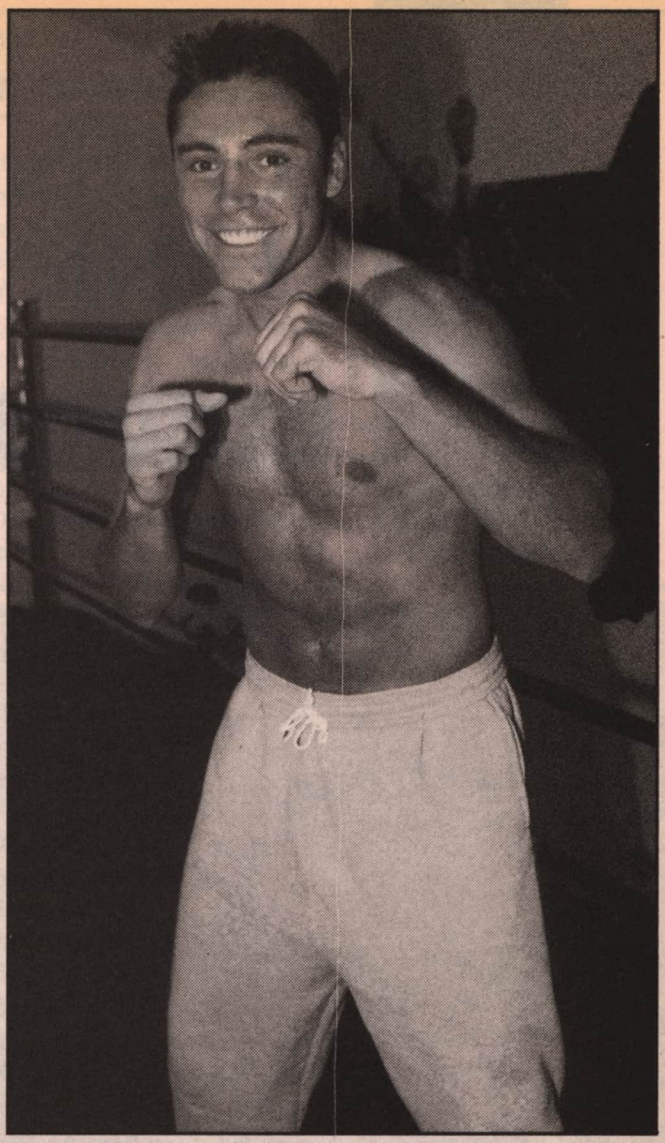
M. MARK BEIRO
Tampa, FL

ONE VOTE FOR IKE

I just watched the Ike Ibeabuchi-Chris Byrd match and feel Ibeabuchi should now get his title shot he so rightfully deserves. He knocked off the undefeated David Tua and knocked out the undefeated Byrd. Let's give credit where credit is due. Ibeabuchi is a legitimate contender and finalized his stature by destroying the defensive-minded Byrd. How about a real treat for 1999: Have Ibeabuchi face the other unappreciated fighter of our era, "Merciless" Ray Mercer.

Byrd should go down to cruiserweight where there is a void of real talent, other than Fabrice Tiozzo. Byrd is boring and weak and does not belong in the heavyweight division. ESPN2's Max Kellerman must be embarrassed. First, Pernell Whitaker gets beat, then Byrd is clobbered.

DALE HAUSER
Phoenix, AZ



Oscar De La Hoya has yet to prove his greatness in the ring by beating real competition, writes reader Tarus Hudson, who suggests that De La Hoya really test his mettle and meet Roy Jones at 168 pounds.

TEMPERAMENTAL TYSON

Eric Raskin writes in "Round One" of the June '99 issue of THE RING that Mike Tyson is a volatile person whose anger and outbursts delay, or even could deny him, a successful comeback in the ring. Although I have sympathy for Tyson, I sometimes have to agree with the fight writers.

Tyson doesn't have the same people in his corner that he has had in the past, for better or worse. His promoters defend him by blaming prison officials, etc., for his actions, which gives me the feeling they only want him back in the ring. It's not the worst goal for fighters and promoters, but they don't seem to be giving the guy any helpful advice.

In my opinion, Tyson is two things: a fighter with a juvenile and adult criminal record who was raised in tough circumstances of instability; and a boxer who never had to have a cool head in the ring over the course of many fights. These comments have been made many times throughout his career, but really seem to show up now.

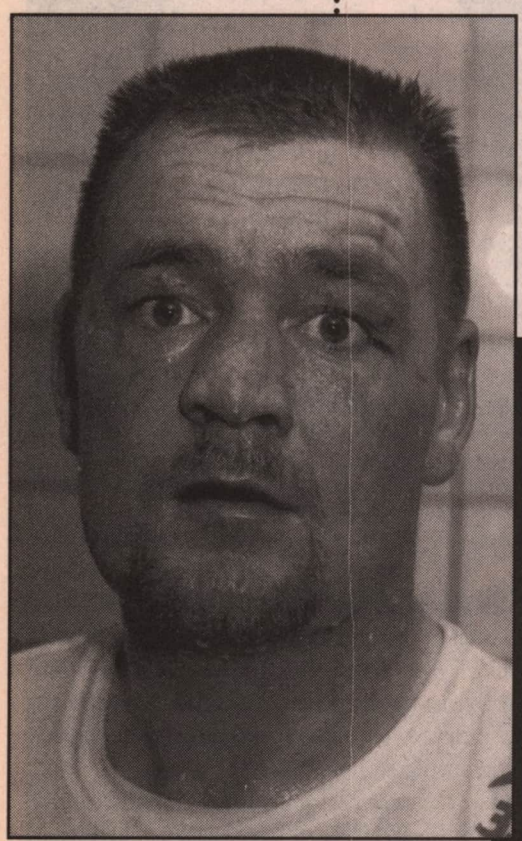
STEVE PRYCE
North Canton, OH ■

ROUND ONE

A ROCK-ORD BREAKING FARCE

What Mark McGwire did last year to Babe Ruth and Roger Maris, Brian Nielsen is set to do to Rocky Marciano. Except McGwire actually hits against major leaguers.

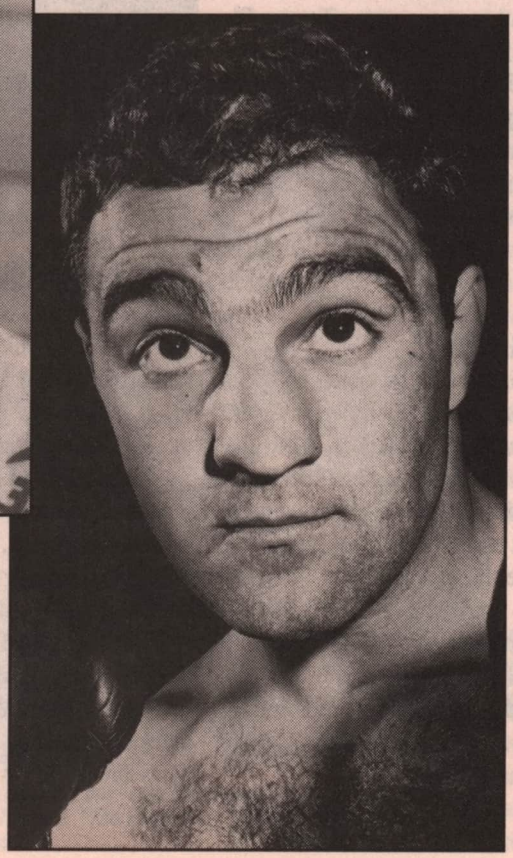
After reaching 49-0 with a fourth-round knockout of a guy who used to be a decent heavyweight when in shape, Tim Witherspoon, Danish heavyweight Nielsen is about to eclipse "The Rock's" symbolic unbeaten milestone. How can we be so sure? Because no one with a remote chance of beating him will be allowed near the Dane, that's how.



Being 49-0 is about all that Nielsen and Marciano have in common

At least "The Babe's" home run record, subsequently surpassed by Maris, but never erased from the public consciousness, was beaten by a man who went toe-to-toe with baseball's best pitchers. McGwire singlehandedly went a long way toward getting the St. Louis Cardinals within striking distance of the playoffs and, with Sammy Sosa, staged a fight to the finish for possession of the new record that gripped America especially, and warmed the rest of the world, too.

Nielsen's elevation to the record books carries little weight. Not when guys like Larry Holmes have been dredged up from a mid-life identity crisis *(Me? Still a boxer? Well, I guess I am.)* to fatten Nielsen's ledger. And not when the only belt he holds has kindly been donated by the dubious IBO.

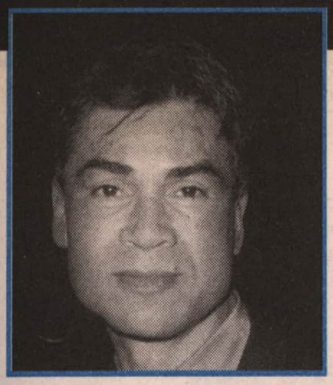


The Rock's record is solidly ensconced in the annals of the game. From 1952 until his retirement in 1955, he was the undisputed ruler of the world's heavyweights. He knocked over his fair share of stiffs, too, but he did the same to Jersey Joe Walcott, Ezzard Charles, Archie Moore, and the great Joe Louis, albeit in the depleted ex-champ's last fight. And were he alive today, he would probably be more able than most to put Nielsen in his proper place.

In an age where nothing seems to be sacred, in sport as in life, it is imperative that we at least attempt to maintain some kind of order. And the truth here, as Holmes might point out, is that Nielsen might have reached a milestone of sorts, but he couldn't have carried Rocky Marciano's jockstrap.

—Brian Doogan

CARLOS OF HOLLYWOOD



Palomino: Playing a pug

Former welterweight champion Carlos Palomino, who only last year retired a second time from the shark-infested waters of boxing, may be holding his own among the deadly barracudas of Hollywood. Palomino plays a supporting role in a boxing film in progress called *Price Of Glory*, starring Jimmy Smits.

Smits plays a failed fighter who tries to live his dream by making champions out of his three sons—whether they like it or not. "I play a cousin who helps him train the kids," said Palomino, who held the WBC belt from 1976-'79.

Earlier, Palomino worked in the oddly named *If Dog Rabbit* with Matthew Modine and Bruce Dern, an independent film that was never released in theaters and will probably go straight to video shelves. But *Glory* is backed by well-connected New Line Cinema, so who knows? Audiences might actually get to see this one.

It was being shot in and around some places the former champ knows well, including the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles and the Great Western Forum down the freeway in Inglewood. "It's bringing back memories," Palomino said.

—Ivan Goldman

THE AUTHORS' NEW FAVORITE TITLIST

Everybody wants to write about Liston

Gene Tunney read Shakespeare and was a pal of George Bernard Shaw. James J. Corbett was more at home with the intellectual set than the plug-ugly. There have been other heavyweight champions adopted by the *literarti* over the years, but would you believe their new favorite titlist is one who was barely able to write his own name and never read a book in his life?

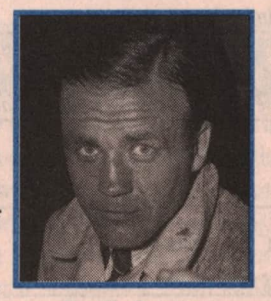
Currently getting raves from book reviewers is *Sonny Liston Was A Friend Of Mine* (Little, Brown, and Company), the latest compilation of short stories from Thom Jones. But don't run out and buy it in hopes of reading a full-scale fictional treatment of the surly 1960s heavyweight kingpin, because Liston figures only briefly in the first story, about a Chicago Golden Glover whose title is the same as that of the volume.

Three years ago, a Western States Book Award for poetry was given to a small volume called *Flying Over Sonny Liston*, by Gary Short (University of Nevada Press). When asked about the book, however, a spokesman for the Western States Arts Federation said that it was "probably of minimal interest to [THE RING'S] readership," because the title poem was merely "a reflection on the fact that every time you fly in and out of Las Vegas, you're flying over Sonny Liston."

Liston, who died on December 30, 1970, is buried near McCarren Airport.

—Pete Ehrmann

ANTON RAADIK'S LONG JOURNEY HOME



Raadik: One-time contender dies at 82

If it wasn't for boyhood friend Jaan Sepp, we would never have known what happened to Estonian middleweight/light heavyweight contender Anton Raadik, who fought in the United States from 1946 until '52. Raadik, who won the European amateur championship in '39, fled his native land in '43 during the Nazi invasion of Russia, living in Finland and Sweden before Chicago promoter Ed Stevenson helped him come to America.

Raadik never fought for a world title, but during his American campaign he tangled with plenty of top men. He beat Anton Christoforidis, Ernie Vigh, and George Abrams, but lost to Jake LaMotta, Marcel Cerdan, and Bobo Olson. According to the '53 edition of *The Ring Record Book And Boxing Encyclopedia*, Raadik had a career record of 39-24-1 (29) with 2 no-decisions, but that probably doesn't include all of the bouts he had in Europe.

Sepp, who grew up with Raadik in the Estonia capital of Tallinn, stayed in contact with him until '62, when the fighter dropped out of sight. For the next 30 years Sepp searched for his lost friend, finally finding him in Chicago with the help of local resident Arnold Talistio. Sadly, Raadik was in bad shape by then, and spent the last few years of his life in nursing home. Raadik, who died on March 13, 1999, at the age of 82, will finally return to his native Estonia, where his ashes will be buried outside of Tallinn.

—Nigel Collins

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
4-24-99	**Keith Holmes KO 7 Hassine Cherifi**	**Show**	**WBC m**	**B+**	**B**	**B**
Questionable stoppage makes Holmes two-time champ, but please, no rubber match						
4-24-99	**Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Reggie Green**	**Show**	**WBA jw**	**B+**	**A**	**A-**
Tight, exciting match all the way; we wouldn't mind seeing these two tangle again						
4-24-99	**Mark Johnson W 12 Ratanachai Vorapin**	**Show**	**IBF jb**	**A-**	**B+**	**B-**
Johnson masterful in one-sided win; Vorapin no slouch, but never in it						
5-7-99	Kofi Jantuah KO 5 Daniel Santos	ESPN2	w	B-	B	B-
Upset! '96 Olympian starched by unknown Jantuah						
5-7-99	Antonio Diaz W 12 Marlon Thomas	ESPN2	jw	B+	B-	C-
Unusually bland win for the normally fire-breathing Diaz						
5-8-99	Kevin Kelley W 10 Hector Velazquez	PPV	f	C+	C-	C
Can anyone remember the last time Kelley looked good?						
5-8-99	Mia St. John KO 1 Kris Vado	PPV	f	D	F	D
St. John prevails in battle-of-sexes bout; What? That was a chick?						
5-8-99	Augie Sanchez KO 7 Jorge Paez	PPV	jl	C+	B+	B+
Impressive one-punch knockout for young Sanchez						
5-8-99	**Nestor Garza KO 8 Carlos Barreto**	**PPV**	**WBA jf**	**B+**	**B-**	**A-**
Who's Barreto using as a conditioning coach? Dana Rosenblatt?						
5-8-99	**Erik Morales KO 9 Juan Carlos Ramirez**	**PPV**	**WBC jf**	**A-**	**B-**	**B**
Either Ramirez is superhuman or we've overestimated Morales' power						
5-8-99	Michael Carbajal W 10 Oscar Andrade	FOXSN	jb	C	C-	C+
Comebacking Carbajal gets in some rounds in one-sided win						
5-8-99	Hector Camacho Jr. KO 1 Roberto Nunez	FOXSN	jw	C+	C+	B+
Junior sparkles with Papa in corner, blows out Nunez						
5-9-99	Virgil Hill W 10 Glen Thomas	FOXSN	c	C-	C	C
Surprise, surprise; Hill isn't any more exciting at cruiser than he was at light heavy						
5-9-99	Michael Nunn KO 7 William Guthrie	FOXSN	lh	B+	B	B+
Hey, William, Tommy Morrison called; he wants his chin back						
5-14-99	Michael Covington W 10 Larry Marks	ESPN2	w	C+	A	B+
The IBF says Covington is a top-10 welter; they also rate Vincent Pettway at number one						
5-14-99	Omar Sheika KO 3 Demetrius Jenkins	ESPN2	sm	C	A-	B
Good win for a rapidly improving Sheika						
5-15-99	Henry Akinwande KO 9 Najee Shaheed	Show	h	C+	D	D
Akinwande finds someone even less interested in fighting than he is						
5-15-99	Randall Bailey KO 1 Bolillo Gonzalez	Show	jw	B	B	A-
You won't see many one-punch knockouts better than this one						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN–Fox SportsNet; Uni–Univision

FIGHTING HIS OWN WARS

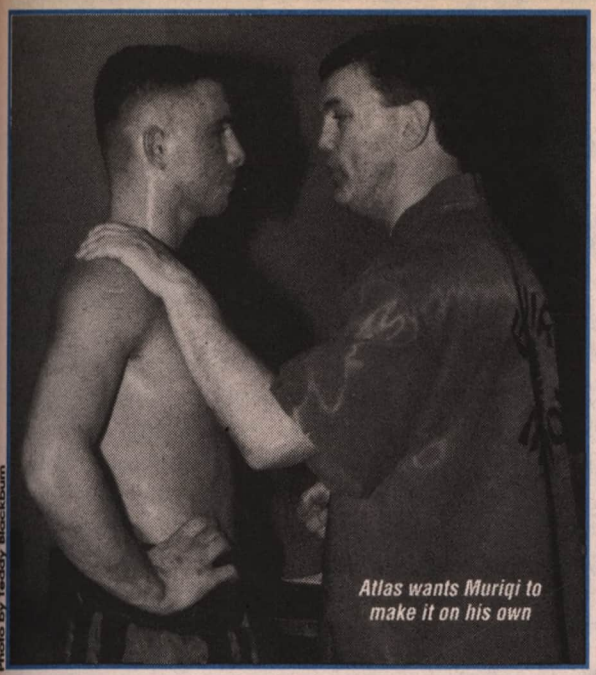


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Atlas wants Muriqi to make it on his own

Never squeamish about cashing in on current events—no matter how horrific—boxing now has a pug going by the nickname of "Kosovo Kid." He's undefeated super middleweight Elvir Muriqi, a native of Kosovo who came to the United States in 1996 and is currently 6-0 as a professional.

"I want to fight for my country. I'd die for my country," proclaimed the patriotic Muriqi, who won the New York Golden Gloves in '98. But his father, who returned home to fight in the conflict, told his son that his job is to become world champion and have Albanian flags waving in Madison Square Garden.

While it's way too soon to be main eventing at the Garden, maybe Muriqi's next bout should be held at Fort Dix, New Jersey, the new home of thousands of Kosovo refugees. Actually, Muriqi's trainer, the no-nonsense Teddy Atlas, isn't happy about all the attention his inexperienced pupil is getting just because his native land is in the news. Atlas actually wants Muriqi to learn his trade first and worry about publicity after he's actually accomplished something. Imagine that. Now, if only Atlas could get Clinton and Milosevic to settle their differences in the ring, we'd could all breathe a sigh of relief.

THE UNDEFEATED HEAVYWEIGHT STAMP

The United States Postal Service unveiled in May a new Rocky Marciano stamp, one in a series of 15 stamps representing the 1950s as part of the "Celebrate The Century" stamp and education program. The new stamp, which shows Marciano with his hands raised in victory as they were following each of his 49 professional fights, was displayed for the first time in Marciano's hometown of Brockton, Massachusetts.

"The city of Brockton is honored to host the unveiling of the Rocky Marciano, Undefeated stamp," said Brockton Mayor Jack Yunits. "Today, we are standing in the very city where Rocky Marciano was born, where he was raised, and where he trained in the local parks and gyms to become one of the sport's biggest legends."

Marciano joins fellow heavyweight legend Jack Dempsey, whose stamp was unveiled last year as part of the 1910s series, as the only boxers saluted so far, though it's safe to assume Muhammad Ali will join them as soon as the '60s and '70s representatives are revealed. The Brian Nielsen stamp, however, is not such a sure thing.

—Eric Raskin

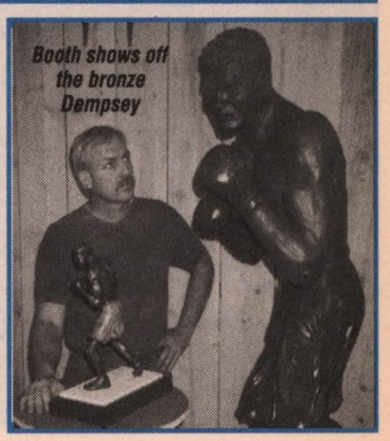
MONUMENTAL TIMES FOR "MANASSA MAULER"

Although he's been dead since 1983, Jack Dempsey is still making news in his birthplace of Manassa, Colorado. And on July 22, 1999, a new life-size bronze sculpture of the legendary heavyweight champion will be unveiled as part of the town's Pioneer Days celebration.

The project is the brainchild of local sculptor Robert Clay Booth, a former high school art teacher, and a committee of Manassa residents. The monument will be placed in front of Dempsey's childhood home, a restored log cabin located in Manassa Town Park. In order to raise the necessary funds, Booth created a limited edition of 50 miniature bronzes of Dempsey to be sold at $1,000 each. The names of the 50 patrons will be inscribed on the base of the life-size sculpture.

"It's a celebration of Jack Dempsey's life," said Booth. "This is Colorado sports at its grassroots level. Dempsey was the pioneer for all the great sports personalities that have followed."

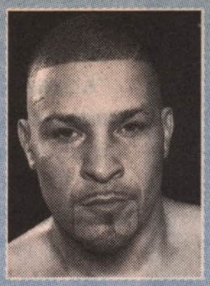
For additional information, Booth can be reached at his studio: (719) 589-5647.



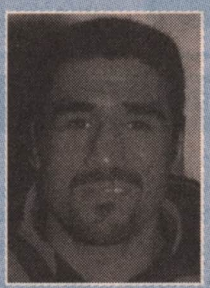
Booth shows off the bronze Dempsey

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Former WBA light heavyweight champ **Lou Del Valle** was charged with driving while intoxicated—with other charges pending—after an automobile accident in the early morning hours of April 7 killed a passenger in his car. Del Valle's 1995 Lexus went off the Bronx River Parkway in New York, struck a tree, and split in half, ejecting the back-seat passenger, who was pronounced dead at the scene. Del Valle and another passenger sustained minor injuries ... For those of you who would have considered it a crying shame if you never got to see **Oliver McCall** fight again, your prayers have been answered. "The Atomic Bull" was released from prison in Martinsville, Virginia, on May 1 after serving just over half of a one-year jail sentence for resisting arrest and assaulting a law enforcement officer last October. McCall, 35, blamed his problems with the law on his addiction to cocaine, and will have to submit to random drug testing three times every two weeks. "I ain't going to have no problems," McCall said. "I'm drug free and I'm going to stay that way." McCall's promoter, **Don King**, was arranging at press time for a June comeback fight ... Just one day before a couple of different open-scoring systems were utilized with virtually no positive response in Washington, D.C., sounder minds prevailed in Nevada. At an April 23 hearing, the Nevada State Athletic Commission didn't even make a motion to vote on promoter **Bob Arum's** proposal to use open scoring on his May 8 pay-per-view card. "This sends a message to people all over the world that we don't think open scoring is a good thing for boxing," said commission member **Lorenzo Fertitta** ... Never one who was renowned for his ability to get along with promoters, IBF middleweight champion **Bernard Hopkins** was preparing to split from **America Presents** as we went to press. Hopkins' contract with the Denver-based promotional company was to expire on June 30, and "The Executioner" admitted he was looking elsewhere. America Presents filed a lawsuit against Hopkins, alleging that his efforts to find a new promoter while America Presents still had the rights to his services constituted a breach of contract ... In other Hopkins-related news, the Pennsylvania prison boxing system, in which Hopkins fought prior to the start of his pro career, is being phased out because it is believed not to be cost-effective ... In the aftermath of the **Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield** controversy, the New York State Athletic Commission is now requiring strict background checks—including financial disclosures—of all judges in title fights ... Former WBA 140-pound champ **Khalid Rahilou** of France announced his retirement in May after suffering back-to-back losses to **Sharmba Mitchell** and **Thomas Damgaard**. Rahilou, 32, finishes with a record of 32-4 (16) ... One of Japan's most influential promoters, **Masaki Kanehira**, died of cancer on March 26 at the age of 65. Kanehira, who also managed fighters, promoted eight world champions, the most recent being former lightweight titlist **Orzubek Nazarov**. Some 1,500 people attended Kanehira's funeral.



Del Valle: Involved in fatal accident



Rahilou: Had enough

THE PUNCHLINES

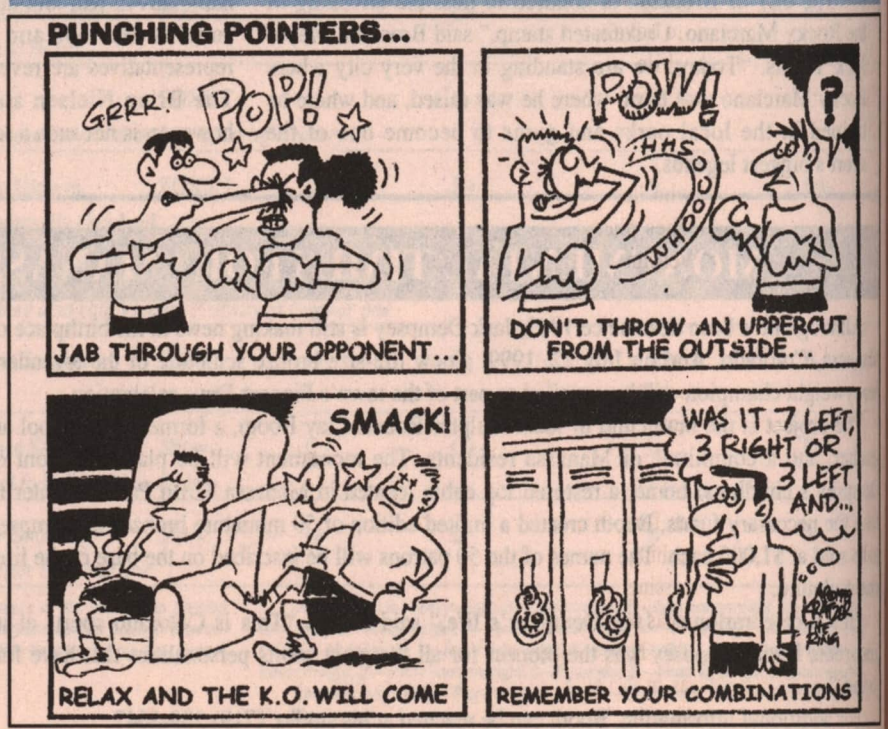
"It's like trying to put a Band-Aid over a wound that isn't even there—and there's hemorrhaging elsewhere on the body."

—America Presents CEO Mat Tinley on open scoring

"I think Kevin Kelley is the reason we wear mouthpieces in boxing."

—TVKO broadcaster Sean O'Grady on former featherweight champion Kelley's loquacious tendencies

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The RING®
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For period ended May 18, 1999)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Welterweight
4. **SHANE MOSLEY** Lightweight
5. **MARK JOHNSON** Junior Bantamweight
6. **RICARDO LOPEZ** Strawweight
7. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
8. **NASEEM HAMED** Featherweight
9. **JOHNNY TAPIA** Bantamweight
10. **LENNOX LEWIS** Heavyweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Inactive Robert Daniels, who hasn't fought since knocking out Don Diego Poeder last May, slips from seventh to ninth, while Saul Montana and Kenny Keene move up to seventh and eighth, respectively.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Michael Nunn's seventh-round kayo of William Guthrie was impressive enough to advance him from eighth to sixth. Meanwhile, stagnant Eric Harding and Montell Griffin slide down to seventh and eighth.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: WBA champ Frankie Liles, who hasn't fought in more than a year, switches places with Joe Calzaghe, making the Welshman number one and Liles number two.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Keith Holmes regained the WBC belt with a seventh-round TKO of Hassine Cherifi, advancing from fourth to third, while the Frenchman drops from third to fourth.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Harry Simon continued his fine form with a third-round kayo of Kevin Lueshing, and moves up from seventh to fifth, bypassing Keith Mullings (sixth) and Yory Boy Campas (seventh).

WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes, but Wilfredo Rivera, who was in danger of falling out due to inactivity, retains the 10th spot with an over-the-weight win at junior middle.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: WBA champion Sharmba Mitchell holds on to the top spot with a close decision win over Reggie Green, who turned in a fine effort and moves from ninth to eighth. Newcomer Randall Bailey blasts his way into the rankings at number 10 with a stunning, one-punch kayo of Bolillo Gonzalez, who was sixth last issue. Bailey's insertion and Gonzalez' exit also raises Zab Judah from seventh to sixth, Julio Cesar Chavez from eighth to seventh, and Antonio Diaz from 10th to ninth.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Although IBF champion Shane Mosley will probably never again fight at 135 pounds, as of press time, he had not officially given up the title, so he stays at number one for at least one more issue.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Cesar Soto jumps from 10th to third by outpointing Luisito Espinosa for the WBC belt. Espinosa falls from second to fifth.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: WBA boss Nestor Garza advances from fourth to third on the strength of his eighth-round TKO of challenger Carlos Barreto, replacing inactive Wayne McCullough, who drops from third to fourth. Barreto, formerly sixth, exits, making room for Juan Carlos Ramirez, who enters at 10th due to his strong, albeit losing, bid to unseat WBC champ Erik Morales.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes, but WBA champ Johnny Tapia stayed busy with a non-title first-round knockout of Alberto Martinez.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson, who was given the number-one ranking before he even fought at 115 pounds, proved himself worthy of the placement by dominating Ratanachai Vorapin for the vacant IBF title. Vorapin holds on to the seventh spot with a decent performance in defeat.

FLYWEIGHTS: Ruben Sanchez-Leon, 10th last issue, falls out after being stopped by unranked Jose Lopez Bueno. Unbeaten David Guerault is back in Sanchez-Leon's old spot.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Edgar Cardenas, previously ninth, exits. Oswaldo Guerrero, who outpointed him, is in at 10th. Songkram Porpaoin drops from fourth to fifth thanks to a loss to Hiroshi Matsumoto at junior fly.

POUND-FOR-POUND: No changes. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended May 18, 1999

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

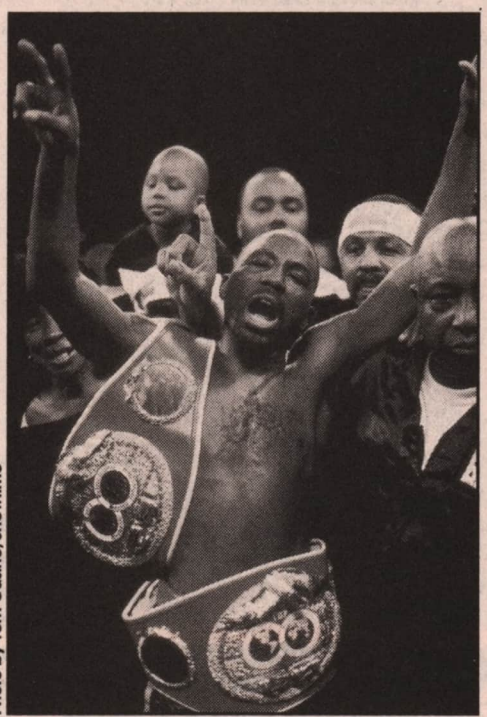


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Number-one ranked junior bantam Mark Johnson is now a two-division champion

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *34-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *36-3-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *20-0*
4. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *29-0*
5. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY *46-3*
6. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *33-1*
7. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *33-3*
8. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD *31-1*
9. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *27-1*
10. **SHANNON BRIGGS** New York, NY *31-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *40-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** Las Vegas, NV *30-4-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JOHNNY NELSON** England *32-12-1*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *26-3-1*
6. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** New Brunswick, NJ *19-2*
7. **SAUL MONTANA** Mexico *33-6*
8. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *45-3*
9. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *38-3-1*
10. **CARL THOMPSON** England *24-5*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *39-1 (WBC/WBA Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *40-0*
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *39-5-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-4-1*
5. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *28-2*
6. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *54-4*
7. **ERIC HARDING** Philadephia, PA *15-0-1*
8. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *36-2*
9. **ANTONIO TARVER** Orlando, FL *13-0*
10. **GLENN ROBINSON** Brooklyn, NY *10-0-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *26-0*
2. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *32-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **RICHIE WOODHALL** England *25-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **SVEN OTTKE** Germany *15-0 (IBF Champ)*
5. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *33-6*
6. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX *36-5*
7. **ROBIN REID** England *26-2-1*
8. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *45-7*
9. **MADS LARSEN** Denmark *29-1*
10. **JAFFA BALLOGOU** Togo *35-3*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *35-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *26-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *33-2 (WBC Champ)*
4. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *26-3-1*
5. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** Davenport, IA *22-2-1*
6. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *31-2-1*
7. **RYAN RHODES** England *19-1*
8. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *25-3*
9. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *33-0*
10. **ROBERT ALLEN** Atlanta, GA *23-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
   Oxnard, CA 16-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **DAVID REID**
   Philadelphia, PA 12-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France 38-3-1
4. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO**
   Spain 45-4 (WBC Champ)
5. **HARRY SIMON**
   Namibia 18-0
6. **KEITH MULLINGS**
   Brooklyn, NY 16-5-1
7. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico 72-3
8. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL 39-2
9. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI 37-2
10. **TONY MARSHALL**
    Albany, NY 31-7-6

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA 30-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 34-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana 34-1-1
4. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA 24-3 (WBA Champ)
5. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 41-3-1
6. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico 42-4-2
7. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 48-2-1
8. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 28-0
9. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
   Australia 24-0-1
10. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
    Puerto Rico 29-3-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 45-2 (WBA Champ)
2. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO 21-1-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 22-1-1
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 43-1-1
5. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV 39-4
6. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 20-0
7. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 101-3-2
8. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD 29-3
9. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 27-2
10. **RANDALL BAILEY**
    Miami, FL 19-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 32-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 26-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN 27-3-1
4. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France 41-1-2 (WBA Champ)
5. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico 34-3-1
6. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT 31-2
7. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA 27-3
8. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 29-4
9. **COLIN DUNNE**
   England 29-1
10. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
    France 53-7-2

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 20-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **TAKANORI HATAKEYAMA**
   Japan 22-0-2 (WBA Champ)
3. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA 32-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea 24-3-1
5. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX 25-1
6. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico 38-6-1
7. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan 35-3
8. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA 27-0
9. **JOHN BROWN**
   Atlantic City, NJ 19-6
10. **SAUL DURAN**
    Mexico 27-3-1

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England 32-0
2. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO 33-0-1
3. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico 53-7-2 (WBC Champ)
4. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa 37-2
5. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines 44-8
6. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL 27-4
7. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela 33-2 (WBA Champ)
8. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico 29-1
9. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico 56-10 (IBF Champ)
10. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
    Hartford, CT 17-0

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico 33-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico 48-2
3. **NESTOR GARZA**
   Mexico 36-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV 22-2
5. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN 33-4-1
6. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico 24-1-1
7. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa 24-1
8. **CARLOS NAVARRO**
   Los Angeles, CA 19-0
9. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM 34-3
10. **JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ**
    Mexico 17-2

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH 19-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM 46-0-2 (WBA Champ)
3. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand 21-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana 39-4-1
5. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia 41-1
6. **JULIO GAMBOA**
   Nicaragua 24-4
7. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan 17-5-1
8. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX 27-1
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico 30-1-1
10. **DARIO AZUAGA**
    Paraguay 44-0-1

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 37-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea 14-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela 32-7-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 39-2-2
5. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand 18-1-1
6. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia 31-0
7. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN**
   Thailand 35-4
8. **JOEL LUNA-ZARATE**
   Mexico 32-3-2
9. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI 20-0
10. **VICTOR GODOY**
    Argentina 29-1

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines 25-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela 31-6-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 21-0
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand 33-2
5. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 22-0 (IBF Champ)
6. **HUGO SOTO**
   Argentina 50-6-2
7. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela 25-5
8. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 33-1
9. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 39-3
10. **DAVID GUERAULT**
    France 15-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand 40-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua 25-1-1
3. **PICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 21-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa 50-10-2
5. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN 14-1-1 (IBF Champ)
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 53-6-4
7. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 25-4-1
8. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico 20-2-1
9. **JOSE SANJUANELO**
   Colombia 12-0
10. **YEOSAM CHOI**
    South Korea 18-1

STRAWWEIGHT
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico 47-0-1 (WBC/WBA Champ)
2. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa 13-2-2 (IBF Champ)
3. **WANDEE CHOR CHAREON**
   Thailand 23-3
4. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 38-1
5. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 20-2-1
6. **ROCKY LIN**
   Philippines 26-2
7. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 20-1-1
8. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia 31-2
9. **ANDY TABANAS**
   Philippines 35-3-1
10. **OSWALDO GUERRERO**
    Mexico 26-4

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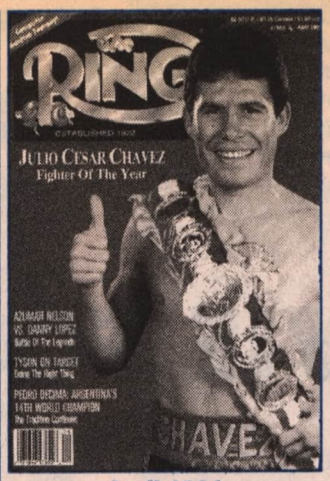

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April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Nov. 1998: Oscar De La Hoya vs. The All-Time Greats. Plus: David Reid, Fernando Vargas, Cory Spinks, LeRoy Neiman, Don King, Hall of Fame.

Dec. 1998: Can Tyson Muscle His Way Back To The Top? 25 Insiders Have Their Say. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Teofilo Stevenson, Team Freedom, Tapia-Romero II preview, Roy Jones.

Holiday 1998 (92-Page Special): A War Worthy Of An Encore: Why Gatti & Robinson Have To Do It Again! Plus: Kostya Tszyu, Israel Cardona, Mills Lane, 50 greatest heavyweights.

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

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NEW FACES

STEVIE FORBES

Lightweight

By Joe Santoliquito

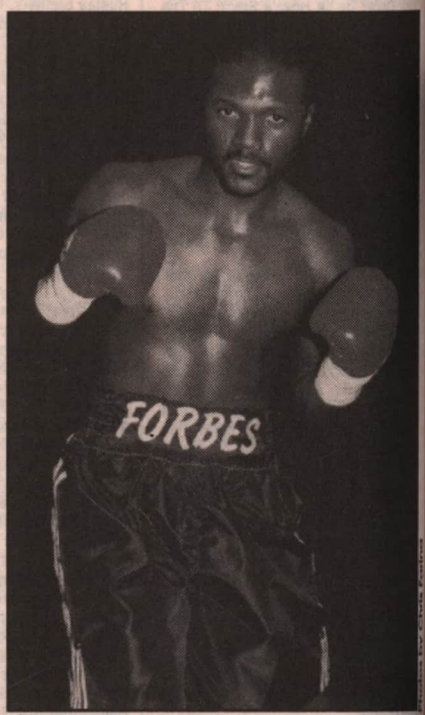
PRO RECORD

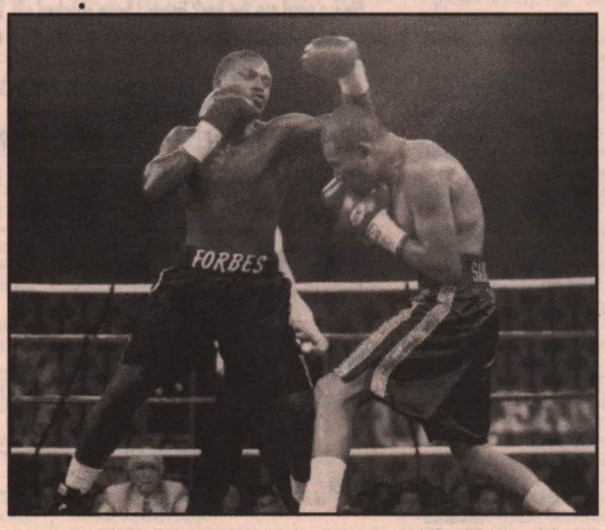
1996		
Dec. 6	Octavio Suarez, Reno, NV	W 4
1997		
Feb. 13	Ramon Aragon, Las Vegas	W 4
April 9	Sergio Benitez, Las Vegas	KO 1
May 9	Gustavo Balderas, Las Vegas	KO 2
May 31	Octavio Suarez, Las Vegas	W 4
1998		
June 9	Patrick Rand, Biloxi, MS	W 4
Oct. 2	Ted Worth, Dolton, IL	W 4
Nov. 27	Jose Torres, Las Vegas	KO 5
Dec. 11	Martin Johnson, Marksville, LA	KO 4
Dec. 26	Juan Colin, Las Vegas	W 6
1999		
Feb. 26	Gustavo Tapia, Las Vegas	W 10
April 16	Ernesto Martinez, Las Vegas	W 10

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
12	12	0	0	4

His toughest foe was under his own roof. His bobbing and weaving came in the form of stories that were meant to keep his opponent off-balance. And Stevie Forbes always had a story. It was his way of rationalizing the occasional bloody nose or bruised cheek. He fell playing basketball, or got into a wrestling brawl with one of the other boys—at least that's what he told his grandmother, Mary Smith. But she was not convinced. A smart woman who kept her 11-year-old grandson on a tight leash, she wanted to know the real story. So one afternoon, she followed the intrepid little boy to the rec center to find out why he was coming home with all of those marks.

Smith had allowed young Stevie to participate in karate, because it was controlled. But not boxing. Too many risks. That's why she was shocked to find Forbes in the middle of a boxing ring. She grabbed him up and told him never to box again.





Forbes bounces a hook off Ernesto Martinez' head

But he snuck back anyway, and today, Forbes' biggest fan is his grandmother. The same woman who once scolded him about boxing is ironically the one person who constantly reminds him about training and focus. The 5'7", 135-pounder credits her with giving him the foundation and discipline that has forged a 12-0 (4) record as a professional. Though he lacks punching power, Forbes is quick-fisted, has a great work rate, and possesses a solid jab.

"Stevie is a very talented young fighter; I haven't seen all of the up-and-coming fighters at his level, but I think he has the skills to be up there," said Forbes' trainer, Donald Curry, the former undisputed welterweight champion. "He picks up the craft pretty easily. He throws his punches pretty correct. His

(Continued on page 57)

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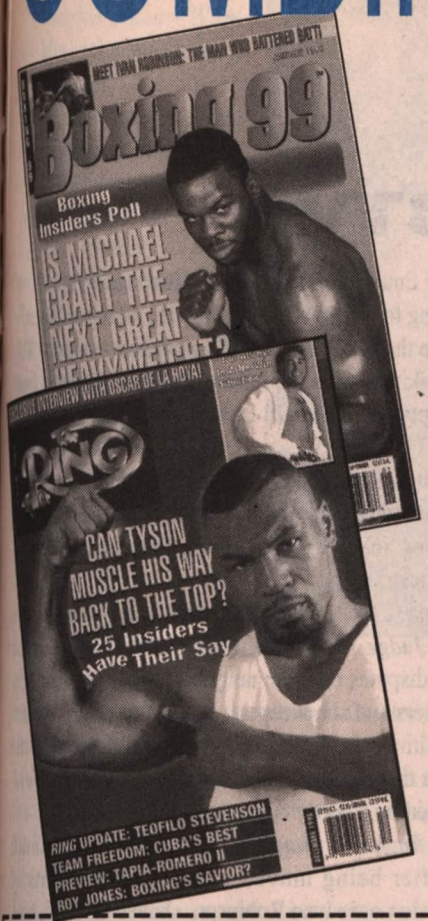

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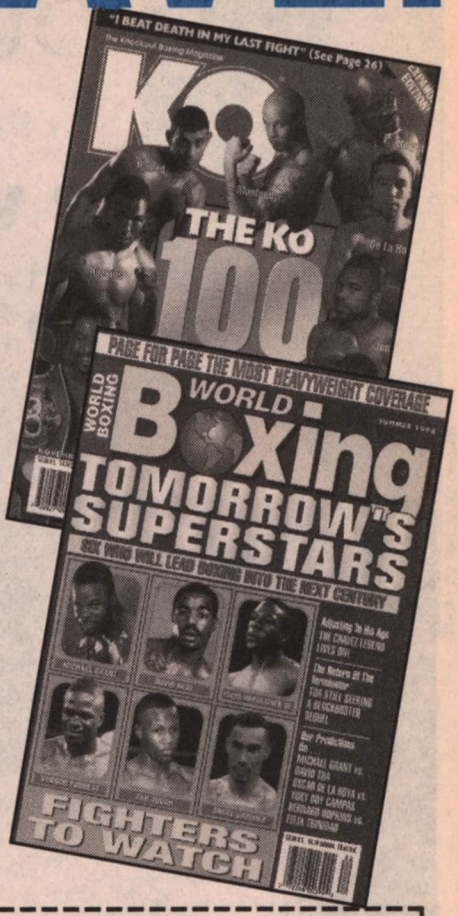

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Photos by Chris Farina

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

I WANT MY BTV

Summer time, summer time, sum-sum-summer time. It's one heck of a fun season unless, o course, it's raining, the concert you were hoping to attend is sold out, or the heat and humidity are so overwhelming that you're banished to the Great Indoors. *Then* what do you do? Th price we pay for beaches, boardwalks, bimbos in bikinis, baseball, barbecues, and backyard bee bashes is a summer television schedule that's as empty as the Harold Lederman display case at the Museum of Broadcasting.

But don't cry in your lemonade. There are plenty of quality prime-time shows that you may have overlooked during the year, and now's your chance to see them in reruns (or, in a few cases, live). Some recommendations from my clicker to yours:

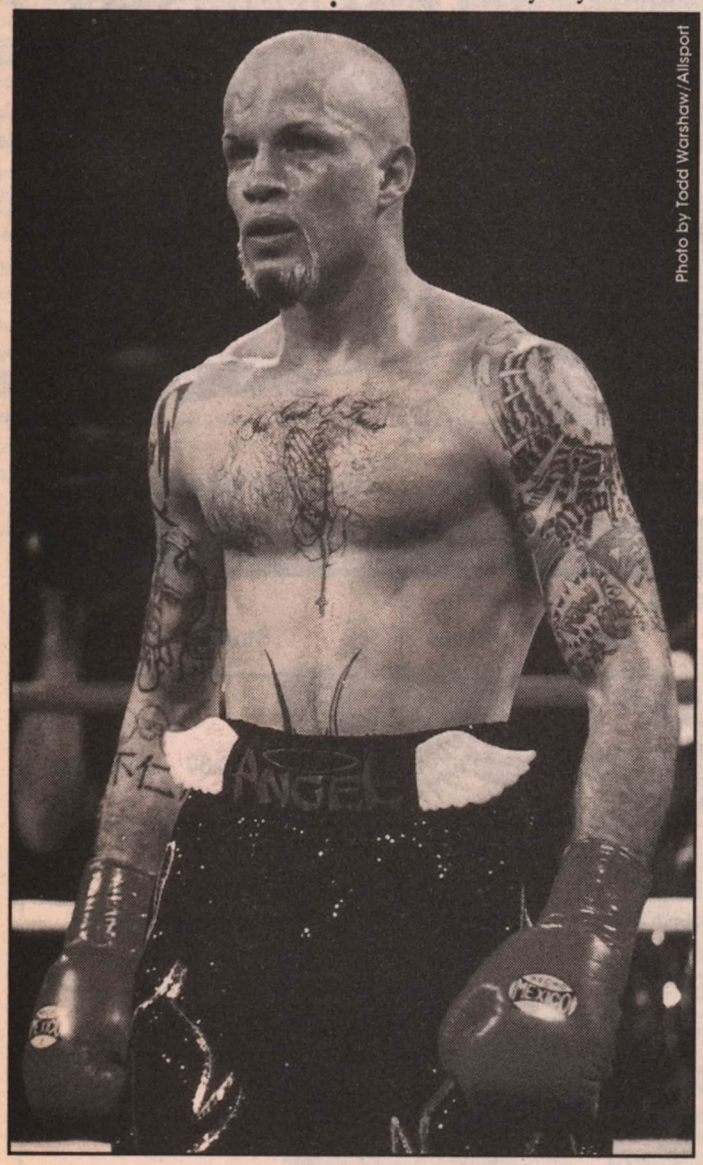


Photo by Todd Warshaw/Allsport

Can this Angel inspire divine madness?

Judge Eugenia: Not to be outdone by *Judge Judy*, *Judge Mills Lane*, and *Judge Joe Brown*, Eugenia Williams dons the robes to rule on disputes between neighbors, landlords and tenants, and customers and shopkeepers. Be sure to catch the controversial installment in which Judge Eugenia rules for the plaintiff in a rent dispute, then later claims her view of the evidence was blocked by a portly court stenographer.

Touched By An Angel Manfredy: The story of an Amish farmer who, after being moved to tears by accounts of Manfredy's decision over Ivan Robinson, shaves his head, covers himself with tattoos, and starts calling himself "The Devil."

Gnash Bridges: Model Tyra Banks stars as Mike Tyson's dentist, Dr. Pearl E. Whites. Best episode: the series premier, in which Dr. Whites berates Tyson for neglecting to floss out of his teeth a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear.

Daze Of Our Lives: This soap opera chronicles the lives of the eight challengers who have had the misfortune of facing IBF lightweight titlist Shane Mosley.

Rivera Live: Welterweight Wilfredo Rivera weighs in, no pun intended, with his thoughts on the day's most important news events. Tonight's topics: Who killed Jon Benet Ramsay and who killed the Oscar De La Hoya-Ike Quartey rematch?

Parity Of Five: Junior welterweights Sharmba Mitchell, Terronn Millett, Kostya Tszyu, Miguel Angel Gonzalez, and Vince Phillips square off in a round-robin tournament after discovering that they can't get along while trying to live in the same house.

Just Shoot Me: This is what it has come to for a RING columnist who can't bear to hear or read one more word about the Holyfield-Lewis scoring, Roy Jones' fear of getting hurt, Mike Tyson's next comeback, or anything having to do with Julio Cesar Chavez, Roberto Duran, or George Foreman.

The Guiding Junior Lite: In the season-ending cliffhanger,

viewers are teased by the revelation that Floyd Mayweather might be adopted, and that his real father could be ... Roy Jones Sr.!

America's Least Wanted: Host John Walsh warns everyone who doesn't own a gun, an attack dog, and a home security system that recently sprung Tony Ayala Jr. may be coming to a house, condo, or apartment building near them. Be advised that the program's scenes of rape, torture, and deviant behavior at the drive-in are merely re-enactments.

Providence: Vinny Pazienza falls in love with beautiful native daughter Sydney Hansen, who, lucky for "The Pazmanian Devil," just happens to be a plastic surgeon. Can her handiwork turn him into Leonardo DiCaprio? Or, at the very least, Dana Rosenblatt?

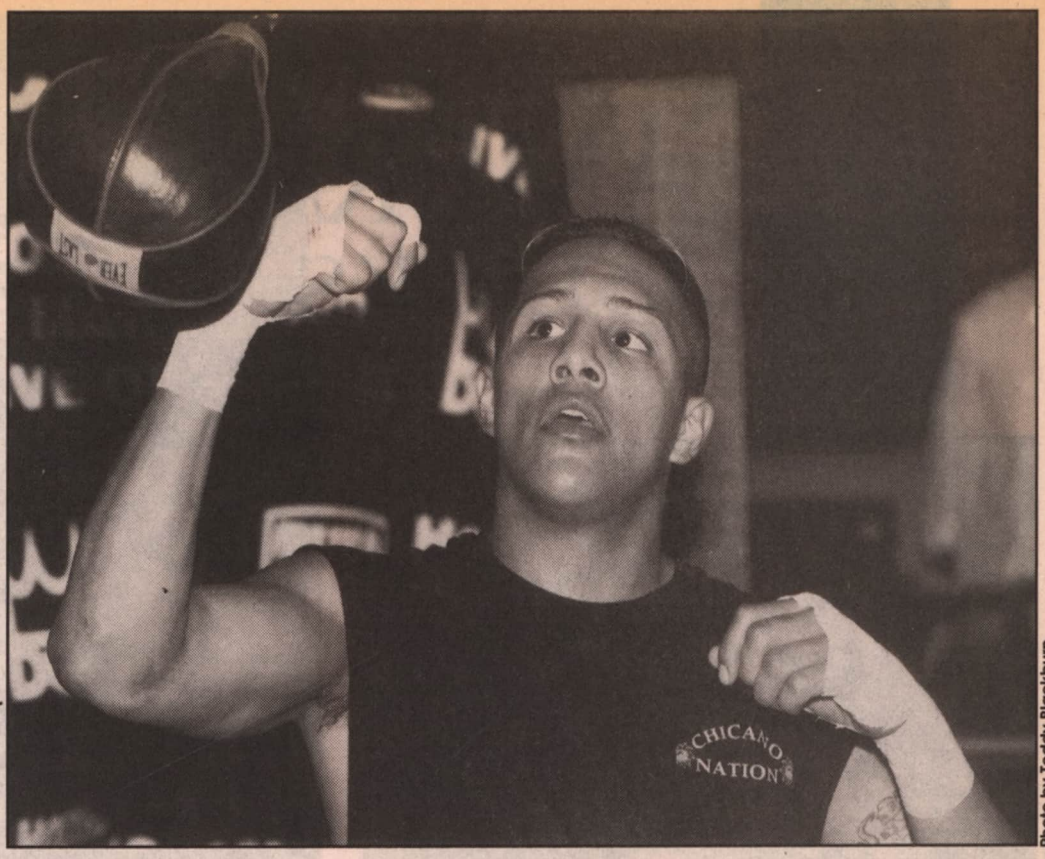


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Vargas takes time out from trash-talking

World's Most Amazing Videos: Believe it or not, actual film of Butterbean drinking a can of Slim-Fast, Naseem Hamed holding his hands up, and Larry Merchant not smirking at one of his own clever lines.

As The World Boxing Association Turns: One episode, depicting how rankings are handed out and sanctioning fees are charged, featured more shameless screwing than you get on a whole season of *Melrose Place*.

Frazier: Smokin' Joe plays an ex-heavyweight champ turned psychiatrist who moves to Seattle to host a radio show. When Foreman calls in to tell him that he wants to fight the winner of a Lewis-Holyfield rematch, Frazier offers the diagnosis Big George had been fearing: "You're nuts!"

Beywatch: Great show about a bunch of bodies beautiful who take lifeguard jobs to help pass the time while they await the comeback of their all-time favorite heavyweight, David Bey.

Millennium: A program that documents heavyweight Michael Moorer's layoff between fights.

The Ex Files: The ex-managers, ex-trainers, and ex-girlfriends of De La Hoya take part in a town meeting on loyalty and trust. Hosted by Ted Koppel.

48 Hours: Dan Rather chronicles a Don King card from the first bell to the walk-out bout.

Xena, Warrior Princess: In one riveting episode, rival Christy Martin watches the raven-haired beauty vanquish an entire army, immediately declares that Xena can't fight, then prices herself out of a potential showdown with her.

Law & Order: The series' most compelling episodes featured the hunt for the WBA super welterweight title belt that David Reid won, but didn't get to strap on in the ring because it was swiped by one of Laurent Boudouani's cornermen.

Dr. Quinn, Anesthesia Man: A documentary on ... zzzz ... sorry, where was I? Oh, yeah, it's a documentary on WBA welterweight king James "The Mighty Quinn" Page's defense against Sam Garr in March. That night, Page created the kind of passion not felt in a Madison Square Garden crowd since the last Westminster Dog Show.

Cops: Particularly wild was the episode in which the NYPD's Rick Frazier arrested himself for impersonating a light heavyweight contender in the Roy Jones fight.

Kids Say The Darndest Things: Fernando Vargas is trash-talking De La Hoya. Mayweather says he wants to break Joe Louis' record of 25 title defenses. And host Bill Cosby is afraid to laugh at either of them.

Dateline WBC: My favorite part of this show is co-host Jane Pauley's "Dateline Timeline." Example: "George Bush and Michael Dukakis were running for President and Pernell Whitaker got shafted by the WBC judges in his bout with Jose Luis Ramirez. It all happened the second week of March. What year was it—1986, 1987, or 1988?"

Jab: Cartoon superhero Johnny Tapia shows that, when he so desires, he can overcome the forces of evil with just one weapon.

Major Dad: Holyfield stars as himself in this hilarious sitcom about life in his Fairburn, Georgia, mansion. In the season finale, "The Real Deal's" Father's Day celebration is ruined when all of the children he's had out of wedlock show up with their mothers and the Fairburn fire marshal declares that having that many people in one living room violates the town's safety code. ■

CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Scott Romer

Hurry up and order your copy of Butterbean's Greatest Hits, the new compilation featuring such classics as "I Wonder What The Fifth Round Feels Like," "I'm Not Fat, I'm Just Big Boned," and the timeless "Let It Bean." No truth to the rumor that he will be officially changing his name to Butterbean Bacharach.

Our photographer was able to do in just a few seconds what Sugar Ray Robinson couldn't do in 13 rounds of the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre": take Jake LaMotta off his feet. Here, the 77-year-old former middleweight champ poses outside his favorite New York City restaurant.

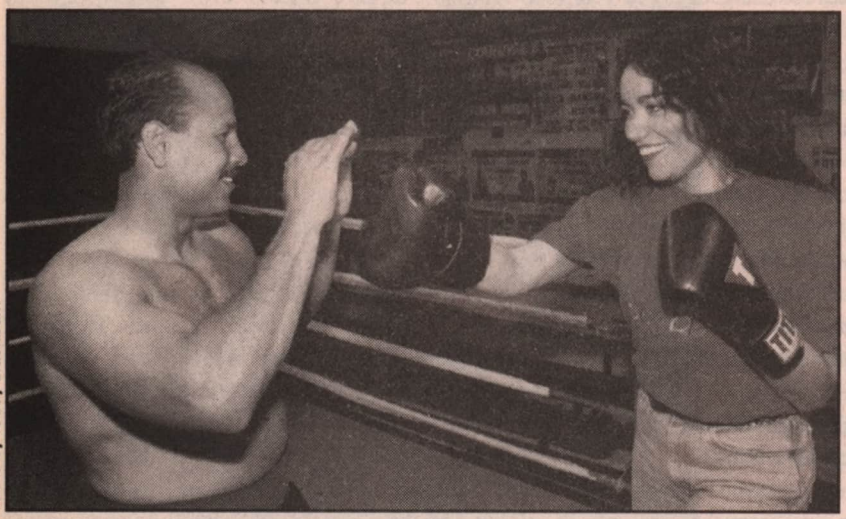
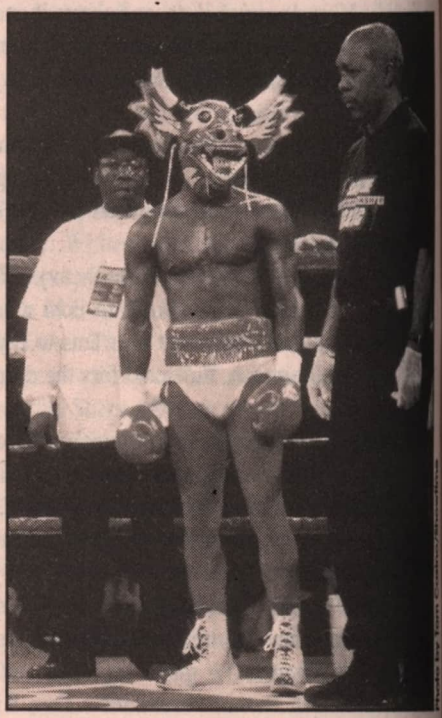
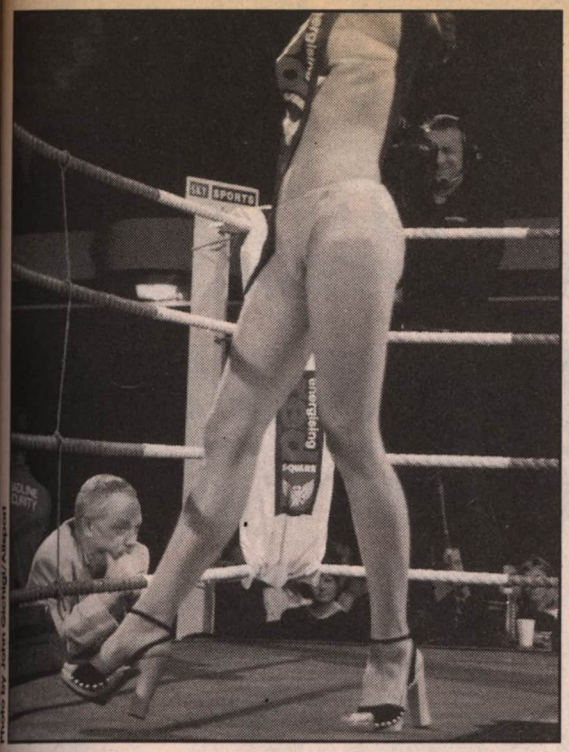


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

We all expected Tony Ayala Jr. to take on a McNeeley-like pushover in his first fight back, but this is a little too easy. That's Ayala's wife, Lisa, unloading her offensive arsenal on the comebacking former junior middleweight contender.



Junior welterweight DeMarcus "Chop Chop" Corley had to hurry straight from the Chinese New Year's Day parade to get to this recent fight on time, and it's apparent that he didn't have time to change. Corley, who is managed by Sugar Ray Leonard, suffered his first career loss in April, but should be back breathing fire again soon.



Talk about deep focus! British promoter Frank Maloney is so lost in his thoughts that he doesn't even notice the half-naked round card girl walking right in front of him. Maloney also didn't blink when a full-scale riot broke out or when the building began burning down, and firemen eventually had to yell out the name "Eugenia Williams" to snap Maloney out of his concentration.

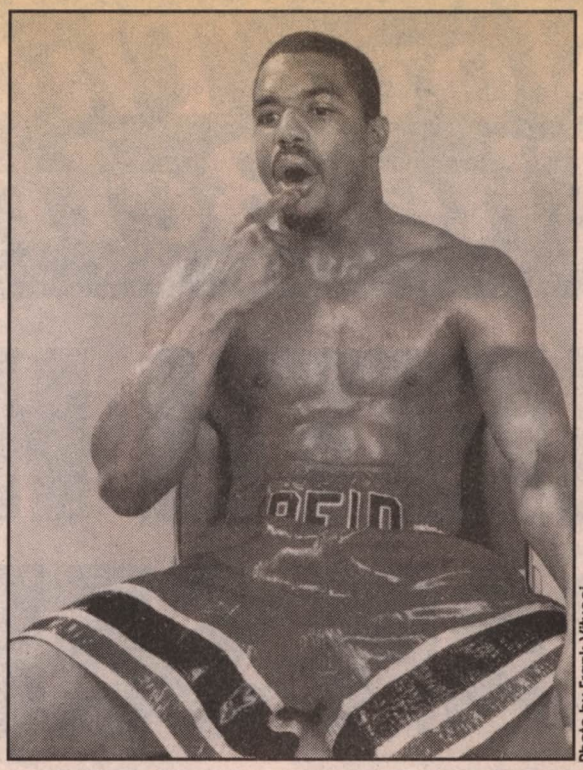
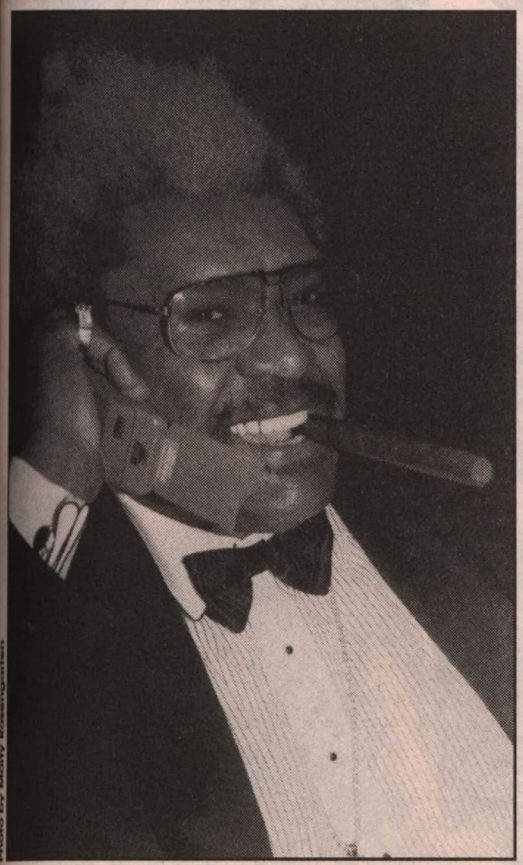


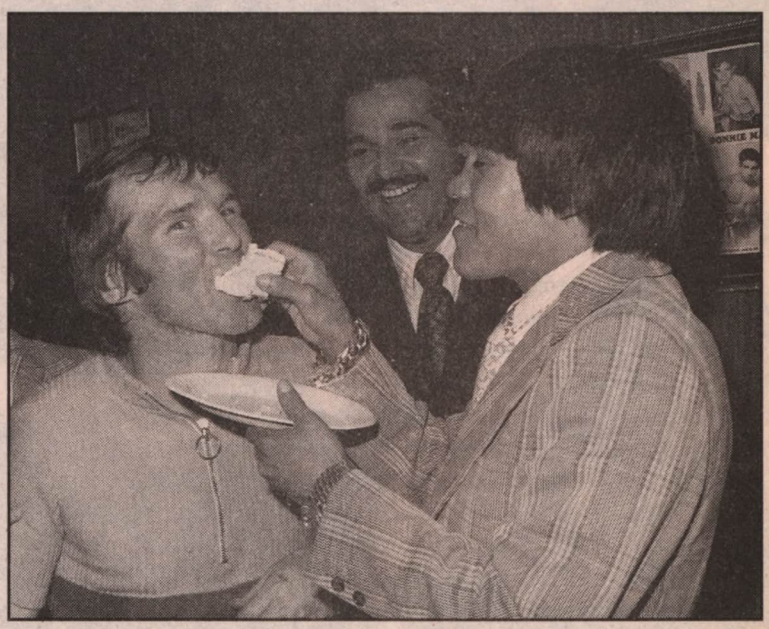
Photo by Frank Vitucci

During a recent photo shoot with THE RING, WBA super welterweight champion David Reid failed in his efforts to prove to us that his vision in his left eye is fine, as a routine touch-your-finger-to-your-nose ended up landing below his bottom lip. Laurent Boudouani is probably wondering why Reid's aim wasn't so bad when they fought in March.



"All right, Mike, I'll be up at the Montgomery County Detention Center to see you first thing tomorrow."

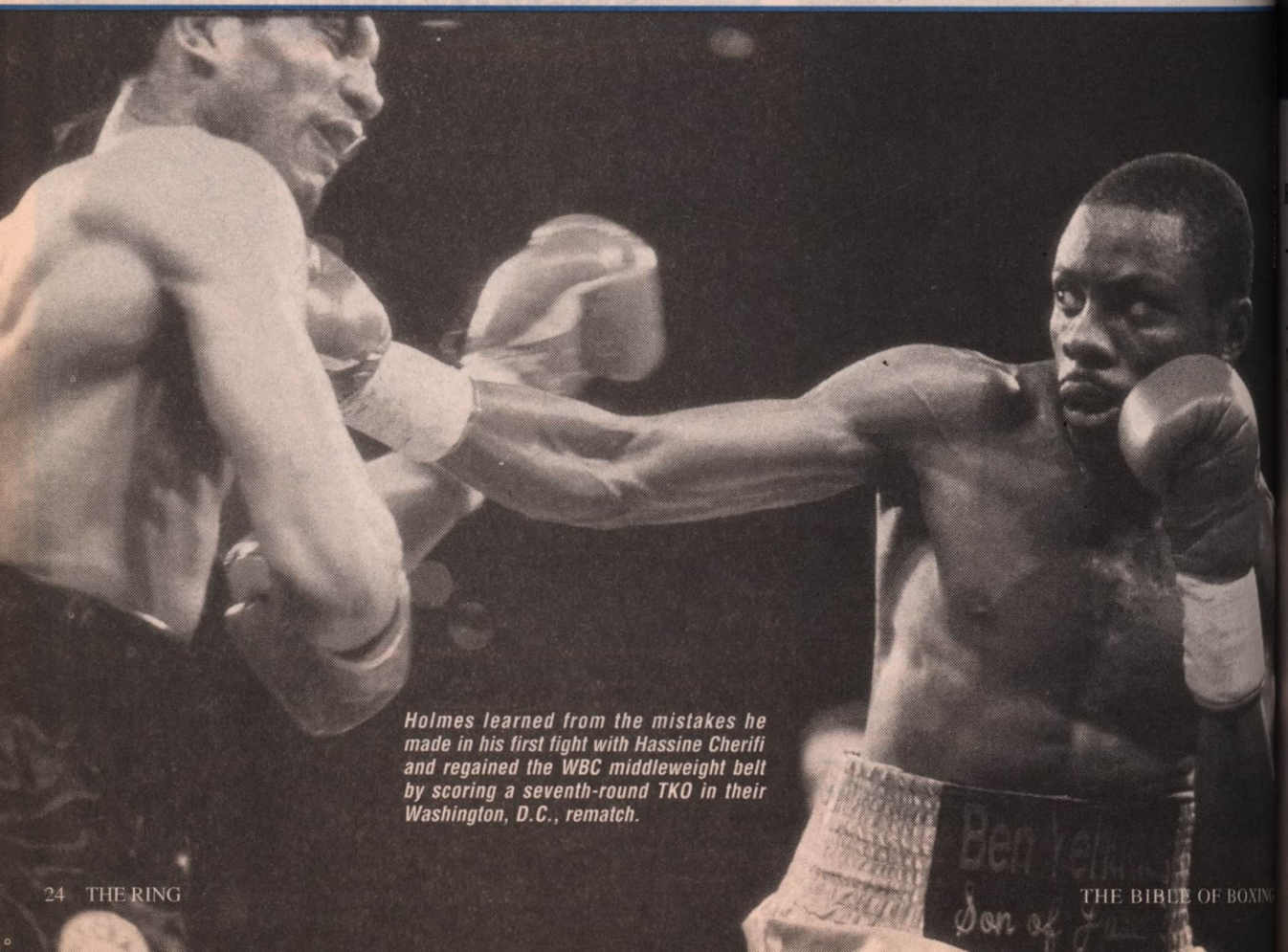
NOSTALGIA CORNER



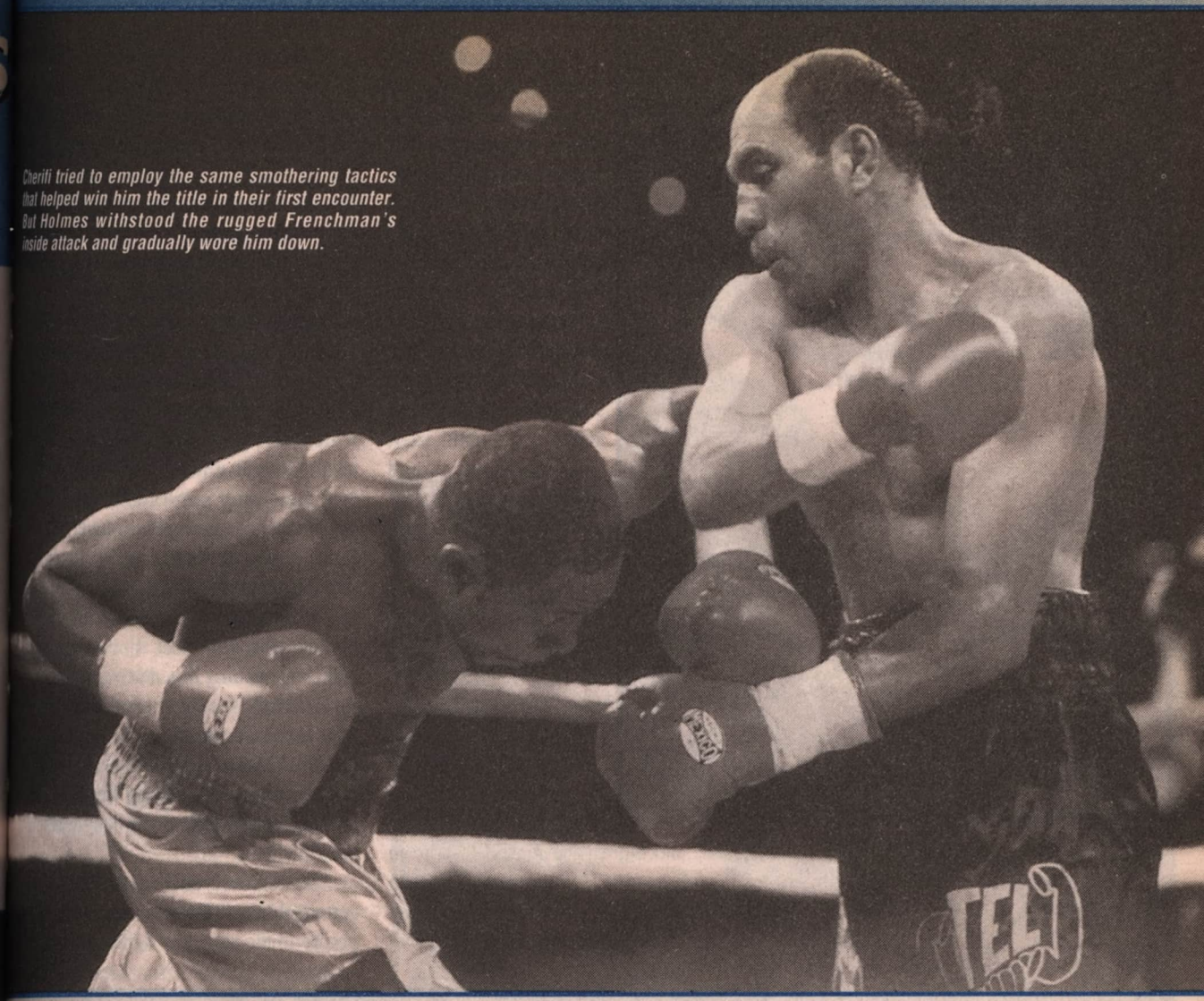
Hall of Famer Ruben Olivares would stop at nothing in his efforts to prevent opponents from making weight, as evidenced here by the way he's force-feeding Walter Seeley a piece of cake before their 1973 fight. And a piece of cake is precisely what the fight turned out to be, as Olivares won by second-round stoppage.

Now That He Has The Belt Back ...

KEITH HOLMES CAN SEE THE PROMISED LAND



Holmes learned from the mistakes he made in his first fight with Hassine Cherifi and regained the WBC middleweight belt by scoring a seventh-round TKO in their Washington, D.C., rematch.



Cherifi tried to employ the same smothering tactics that helped win him the title in their first encounter. But Holmes withstood the rugged Frenchman's inside attack and gradually wore him down.

By **John Scheinman**

Keith Holmes lives in the suburbs now, not in crazy downtown Washington, D.C., anymore. He moved with his wife and two kids into a nice home in Bowie, Maryland, where the neighbors are friendly and he sometimes worries about nothing more than keeping the pool clean and his bowling game sharp.

It's been five years since Holmes' trouble with the law, when he was charged with three counts of assault with intent to kill and possessing a gun in connection with a May 1993 drive-by shooting. He spent three months in a D.C. jail before being acquitted in January '95. Holmes proclaimed his innocence throughout, and the jury took just two hours to agree, but he was branded a bad guy for a long time. He grew up in a troubled part of town, mistakenly named Paradise Manor, and got mixed up in street life. He admits to that, but not the stuff the police tried to pin on him.

Cliche or not, boxing helped save Holmes' life, and now the WBC middleweight titlist appears to be walking a path toward enlightenment. In May, a few weeks after regaining the crown from Hassine Cherifi with an electrifying seventh-round technical knockout, Holmes traveled to Damona, Israel, with his family and spiritual adviser to scout out a home for his future.

He calls himself a Hebrew Israelite now, and keeps a strict vegetarian diet. Even his vitamins are vegetable based. Holmes has plans to build a community center in Bowie. He speaks often at local schools. He rewarded 50 students with good attendance records with tickets to see him battle Cherifi in downtown Washington at the city's new MCI Center.

"Seventy-five-dollar seats," he said proudly.

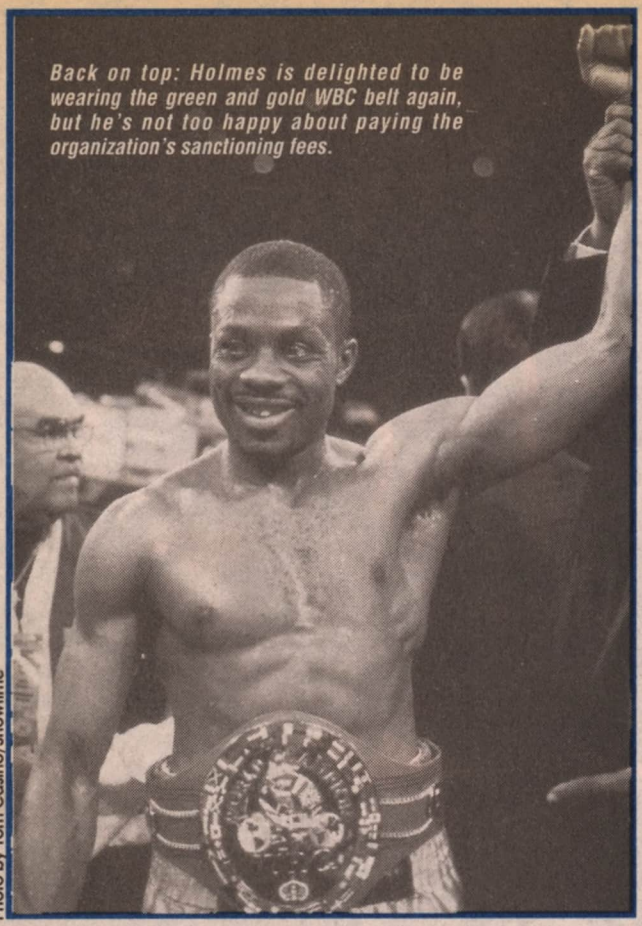
But Holmes is quick with a reminder that serenity hasn't made him soft.

"I'm still tough, but I'm not a street guy," he said. "I'm a nice guy. The past is the past. It's in you to be that way. Being in this type of society, growing up you do stupid things, trying to be bigger than you are. And bad things happen. The best thing about it is, if you're a man, you can overcome these things and look back and say, 'That's how I used to be; this is how I am.'

"But don't misunderstand me," he cautioned. "I'm a fighter."

Hassine Cherifi would surely agree.

The thing about Cherifi is there aren't many other fighters quite like him. You can't really prepare to fight Cherifi the first



Back on top: Holmes is delighted to be wearing the green and gold WBC belt again, but he's not too happy about paying the organization's sanctioning fees.

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

time, just learn for the second. He wants to crowd you so you feel claustrophobic. Through his relentless pace, he wants you to understand he is in better condition and can fight all night if necessary. He leaves no room to jab, no room to maneuver. But Cherifi has one terrible weakness—he pushes his punches.

Holmes took a lesson in Cherifi when he traveled to France in May '98 to defend the WBC title for the third time. Having crushed Quincy Taylor for the crown two years prior, and defended it with late-round knockouts of Richie Woodhall and Paul Vaden, Holmes didn't imagine Cherifi might be the one to beat him, even on his own turf.

Holmes arrived in Villeurbanne five days before the fight. He never before had fought outside the United States. He got his first taste of jet lag. He flew home without his belt.

But despite what people might tell you, fighting for Don King has its privileges. Rematches can be one of them. After a 10-round workout win over Urbano Gurrola in November '98, Holmes was right back in line for another shot. King scheduled it for February in Washington, and Cherifi flew in and came down with a back injury. The card went on anyway, and Holmes gave Cherifi, sitting ringside as a TV color commentator, something to think about by blowing away substitute Alex Lubo in one round.

Regrouping, King put together a blockbuster championship triplehead-er with a hometown D.C. flavor two months later, pitting Holmes and Cherifi on the same card as title fights featuring other local heroes Sharmba Mitchell and Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson. Before a buzzing crowd of 11,437, Holmes, 33-2 (22), exacted his revenge.

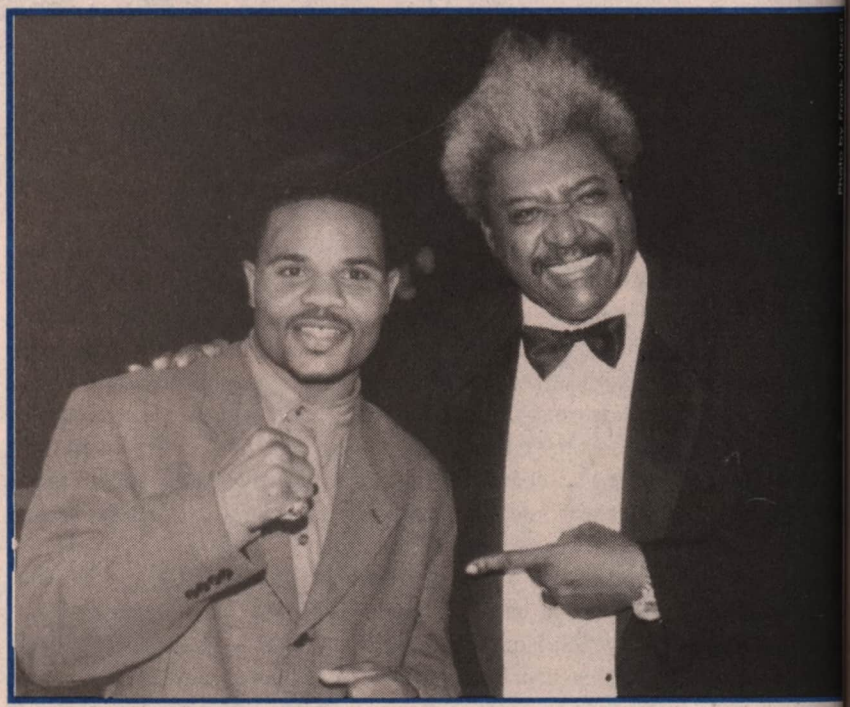
Cherifi, Lyon, France, 26-3-1 (17), employed his same previously winning tactics. Strong, angular, and bullish, he looked to bore in on the left-handed Holmes, swarming with soft punches, and smothering from the start. It may have looked amateurish, but it's hell on an opponent.

The second round opened with some furious exchanges, and clearly Holmes was looking to create room to operate. His long jab had served him well in so many fights and he wanted to put it in Cherifi's face. But the Frenchman just continued to initiate punchouts, and in the third round went back to his corner with blood leaking from a gash over his right eye. In the fourth however, almost imperceptibly, Holmes began to take over, banging Cherifi with short, hard right hands to the body.

"I was doing what I wanted to do which was wear him down and let him wear himself down also," Holmes said. "He's a strong guy. You feel a guy and you know how strong he is. Later on in the fight, if you don't feel that strength, you know he's wearing. You know, I'm looking at him—you can see my eyes in the photographs. I'm clear. I'm watching him and I'm watching him deteriorate."

Holmes' veteran trainer, Dave Jacobs, who helped develop Sugar Ray Leonard, implored him to work off the right jab. But Holmes sensed that letting Cherifi come to him and then working the body was a better strategy.

"Sometimes you've just got to change certain things," Holmes explained. "Once you're in the ring as a fighter, things don't



Holmes' promoter, Don King, also promotes WBA middleweight champ William Joppy (pictured) but doesn't seem very interested in staging a unification match. Instead, King wants a third Holmes-Cherifi bout and a rubber match between Joppy and Julio Cesar Green.

go like you planned them to go, and as a fighter you have to adapt and adjust to that."

In hindsight, Jacobs agrees.

"In order to see these kind of fights, you have to have been a fighter yourself. This guy was so difficult. He was so awkward. I looked at a lot of tape, and I figured a fighter like him, Keith could have controlled with the jab. It kept him on the outside, but if you had to go inside, we wanted to bang both sides of his body because I watched his body when he waded in. He had no body. He was just in terrific condition."

The world sanctioning organizations were testing open scoring at the show, and the WBC had decided to have the scores read aloud to the crowd after the fourth and eighth rounds. When Holmes was announced ahead after the fourth, the two fighters opened the fifth furiously.

In the sixth, Cherifi started to crack. Holmes ripped two hard right hooks to his body, causing him to stumble into a clinch.

The end came in the seventh. Cherifi landed a hard right at ring center, but Holmes came back with a smashing right of his own. He followed with a three-punch combination that drove Cherifi to the ropes. Before Cherifi could regroup, Holmes stepped in and unloaded a fierce barrage of headshots—hooks and uppercuts—until referee Frank Cappuccino had seen enough and called a halt 2:13 into the round. Cherifi was livid, but had it continued, Holmes might have seriously hurt him.

In boxing, people don't want to give fighters time to celebrate, to savor their victories. People always want to ask, "Who's next?" Holmes kicked back and relaxed after the win, and then took off to Israel. But the question is out there. King immediately began banging the drums for a third fight with Cherifi, comparing it to the Ali-Frazier trilogy. It's not close. The mandatory defense against the WBC number-one contender would mean a match with Robert McCracken of England. Again, little clamor.

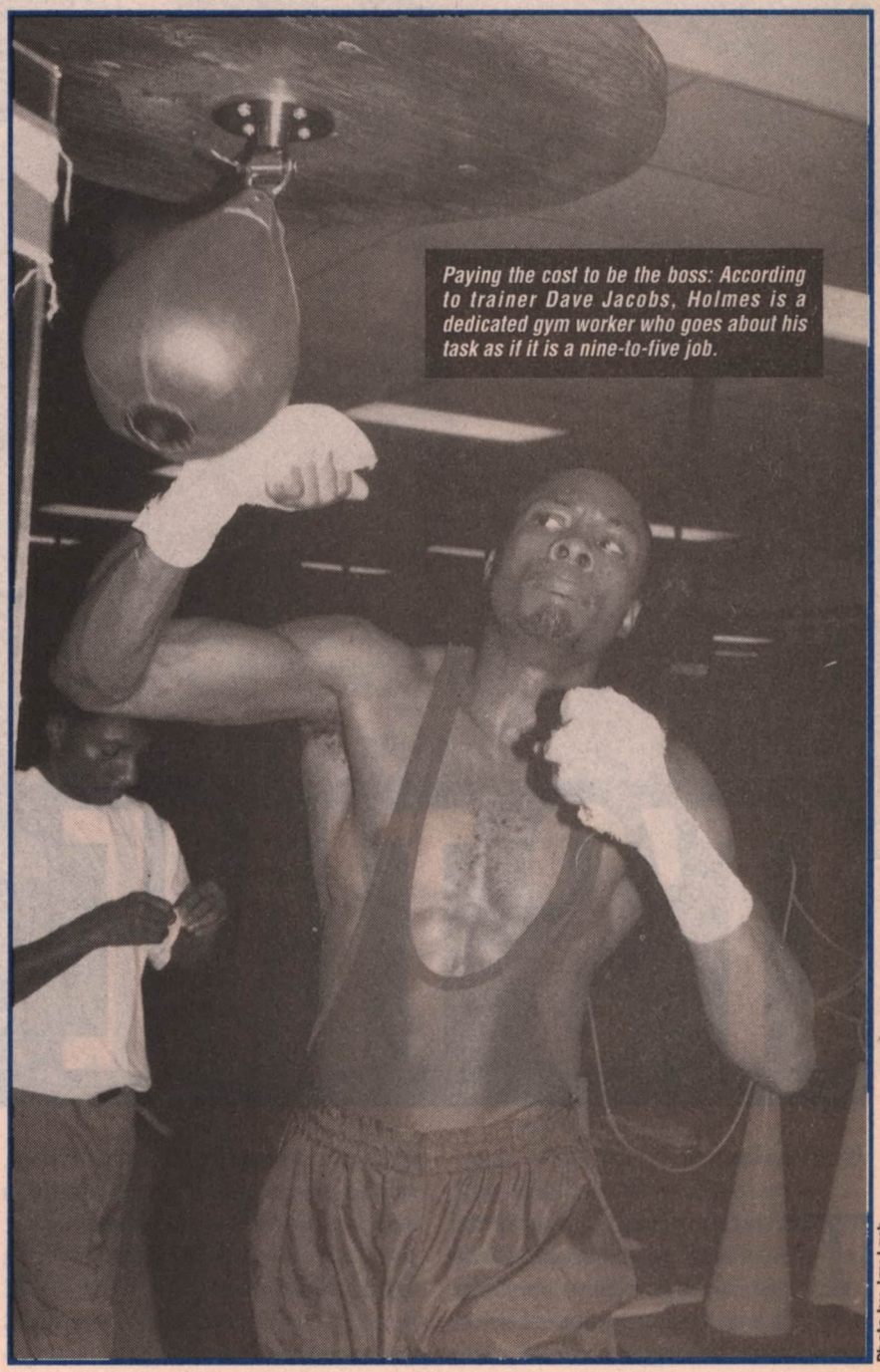
But title-unification fights, those wonderfully elusive gifts to the fight fans, whet the appetite. WBA titleholder William Joppy, nearly fully healed from a neck injury caused in an auto accident, lives in Washington. A Holmes-Joppy showdown is a long talked about natural. Then again, IBF champion Bernard Hopkins is widely considered the best of the lot. Even Holmes likes him.

"If I wasn't boxing, I'd be a fan of Bernard's because he reminds me of [Marvelous Marvin] Hagler," said Holmes. "Hagler was my idol. But when Bernard gets in the ring with me, he's going to be cut short."

King's director of boxing, Bobby Goodman, doesn't sound like his boss is in a hurry for either matchup. King also promotes Joppy and is looking at a third fight between Joppy and Julio Cesar Green. Holmes also knows the winner of a unification fight might wind up paying two sanctioning fees to the ruling bodies just to keep the belts.

"They want like seven percent of your money," said Holmes. "It's ridiculous. And we're representing them. It's robbery. Then, when you win the title, you have to sit back with your trainer and say, 'Do we want to keep this title and pay these sanctioning fees, or vacate one of them and continue to be world champion and win it again?'"

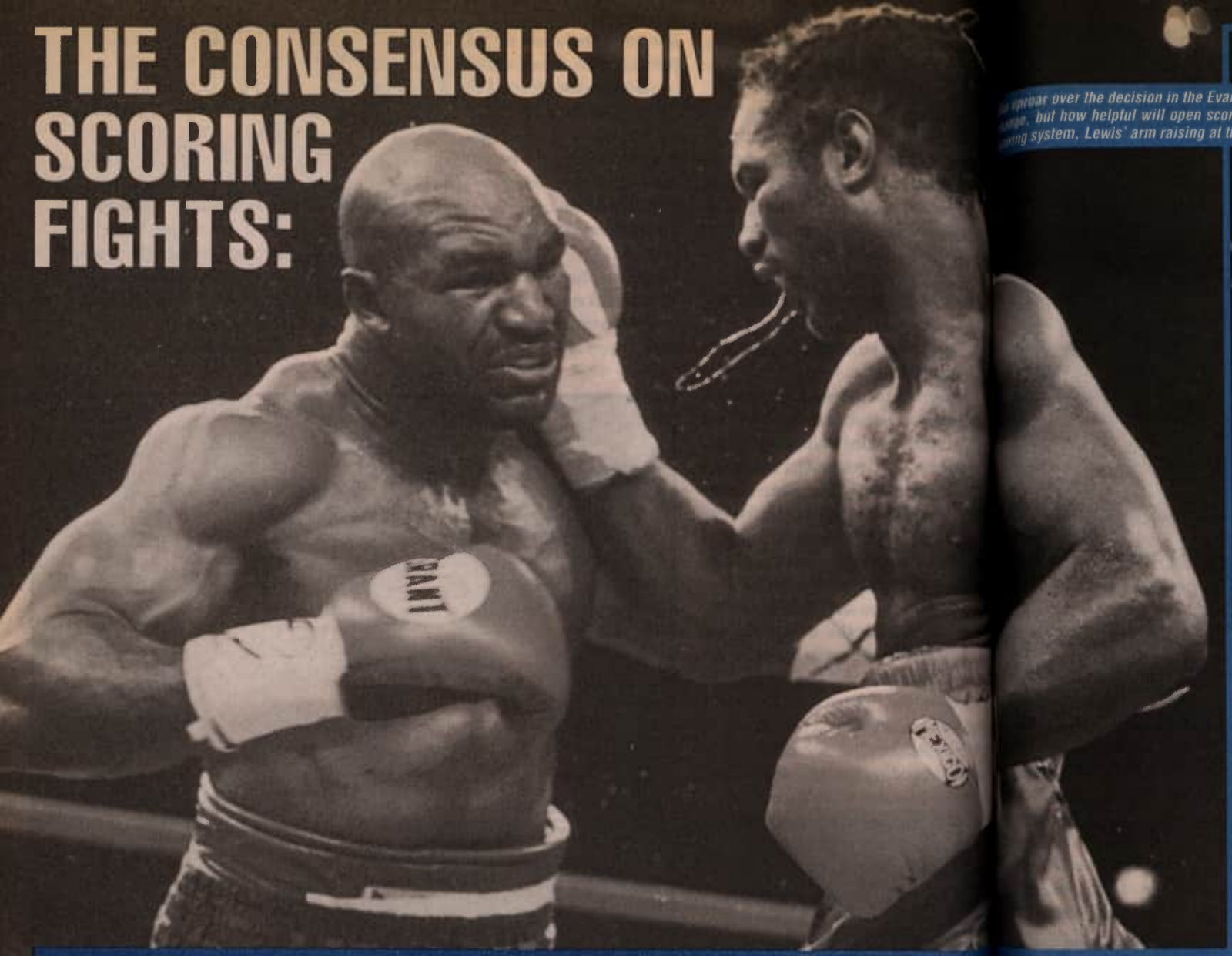
(Continued on page 61)

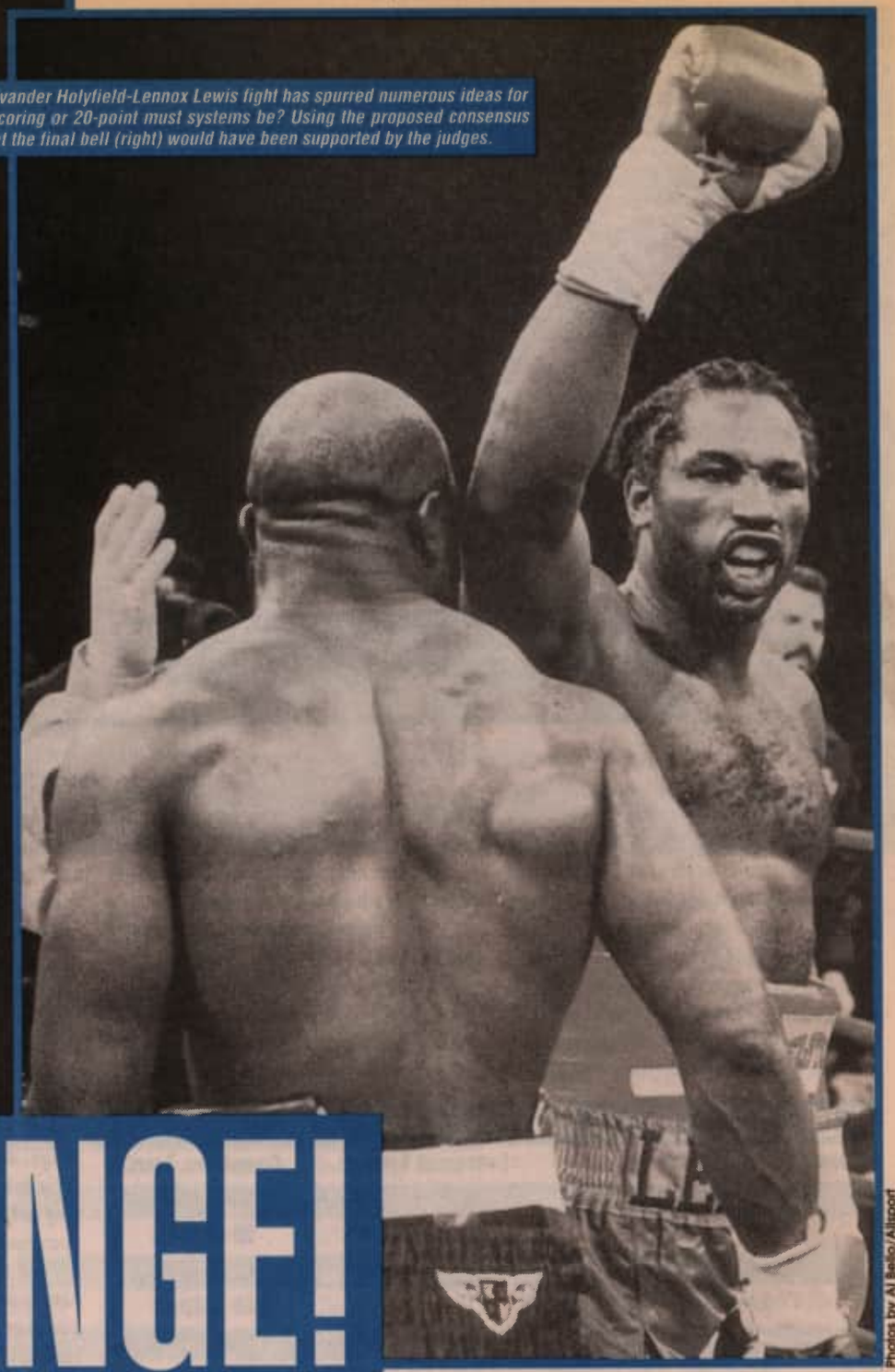


Paying the cost to be the boss: According to trainer Dave Jacobs, Holmes is a dedicated gym worker who goes about his task as if it is a nine-to-five job.

Photo by Jay Lash

THE CONSENSUS ON SCORING FIGHTS:





The uproar over the decision in the Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis fight has spurred numerous ideas for change, but how helpful will open scoring or 20-point must systems be? Using the proposed consensus scoring system, Lewis' arm raising at the final bell (right) would have been supported by the judges.

Photos by Al Bello/Allsport

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!

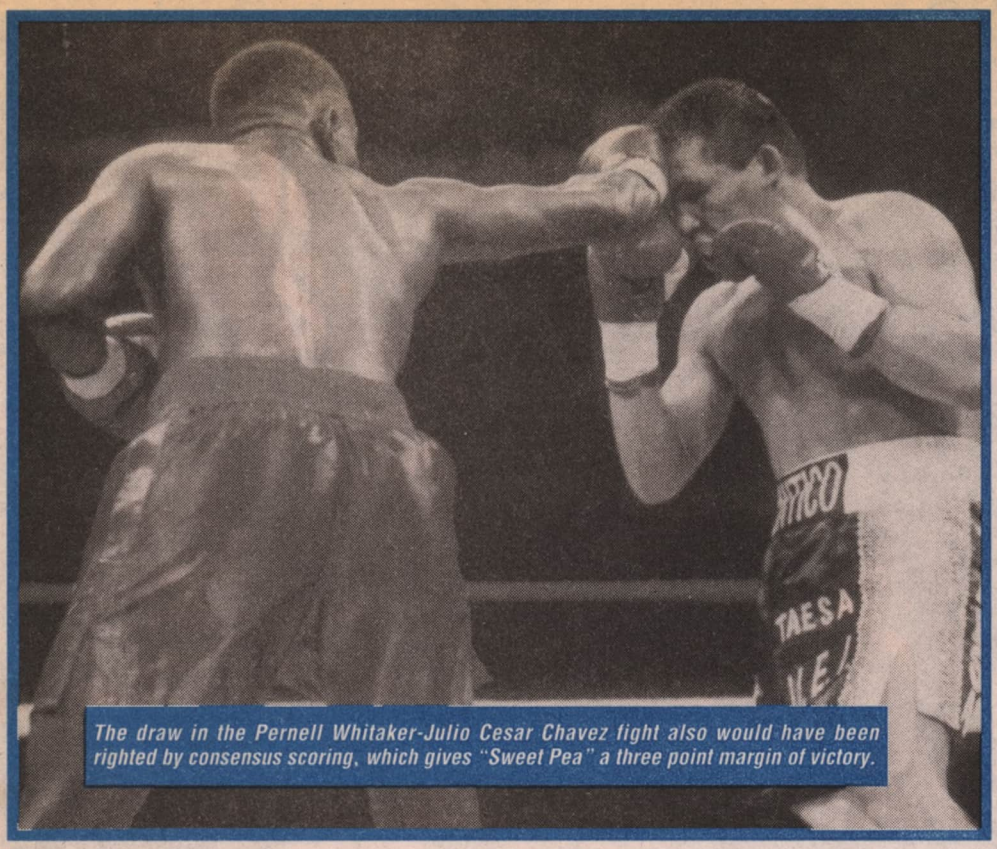
By Jim Trunzo

The recent debacle that was the Holyfield-Lewis unification fight has spawned new debate about how a fight should be scored. On the heels of the ridiculous scoring that resulted in one of the worst decisions in boxing history, various proposals have been put forth in the hopes of preventing future injustices.

In a knee-jerk reaction, the alphabet organization known as the WBU (World Boxing Union) immediately announced that it would switch to a 20-point must system for a championship bout rather than use the standard 10-point must system. The dubious rationale behind the decision was that by doing so, the judges would have more flexibility. Flexibility to do what? Create needlessly higher scores?

The WBU put its new system to use in a cruiserweight title fight between Robert Norton and Jacob Mofokeng, appropriately enough, on April 1. The fight went the distance, with Norton winning a majority decision by scores of 237-231, 237-231, and 234-234 ... as opposed to 117-111, 117-111, and 114-114. On the surface at least, it appears that by doubling the potential points scored per round, the WBU's system simply adds 120 points to each fighter's total. It doesn't solve any problems and it's an open invitation to math errors. Base 10 is tough enough.

Another old chestnut, open scoring, came to the fore in the wake of the Holyfield-Lewis draw. Open scoring has been bandied about for years, but has always been rejected because of several inherent flaws. To begin with, part of what makes boxing special is the anticipation of the decision. There's nothing quite like the



The draw in the Pernell Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez fight also would have been righted by consensus scoring, which gives "Sweet Pea" a three point margin of victory.

drama that accompanies the ring announcer's call after a close, seesaw battle. Open scoring renders this climactic moment impotent.

An additional argument against open scoring focuses on its effect on the fighters participating in the bout. Knowing the score of the fight at any given point can't help but alter the performance of the fighters involved. Open scoring would certainly tempt a normally aggressive fighter, knowing that he has the bout won on points, to opt for a safety-first approach and coast the last three or four rounds of a fight. Conversely, a fighter with too much heart and too little skill, who finds himself behind after only five rounds, could easily overtax his body in an attempt to make something happen rather than pace himself and let matters take place in some type of natural progression.

A third and not insignificant argument against open scoring goes directly to the heart of the matter, the judgment of the officials themselves. A judge knowing that his score alone would be changing the outcome of a fight would be sorely tempted to subconsciously "even things up" and score with his heart, not his eyes.

So if changing the points system isn't the solution and open scoring has too many potential flaws, what is the answer? Well, one viable option is "consensus scoring," which takes the three judges' round-by-round scores and arrives at a consensus score for each round. At the end of the fight, a single, final score would be announced based upon the consensus of the three officials rather than on three individual viewpoints.

Using consensus scoring is simple: If at least two of the three judges see the round in favor of one fighter, that fighter wins the round by the appropriate margin. For example, if two judges score the round 10-9 for Fighter A, and one judge scores it 10-9 for Fighter B, Fighter A wins the round 10-9. If two judges score the round 10-10, and one judge sees it 10-9 for Fighter A (or Fighter B), the round is scored even. It works just as easily in trickier situations: One judge scores the round 10-9 for Fighter A, and two judges score the round 10-8 for Fighter A, Fighter A wins the round 10-8. Get the idea?

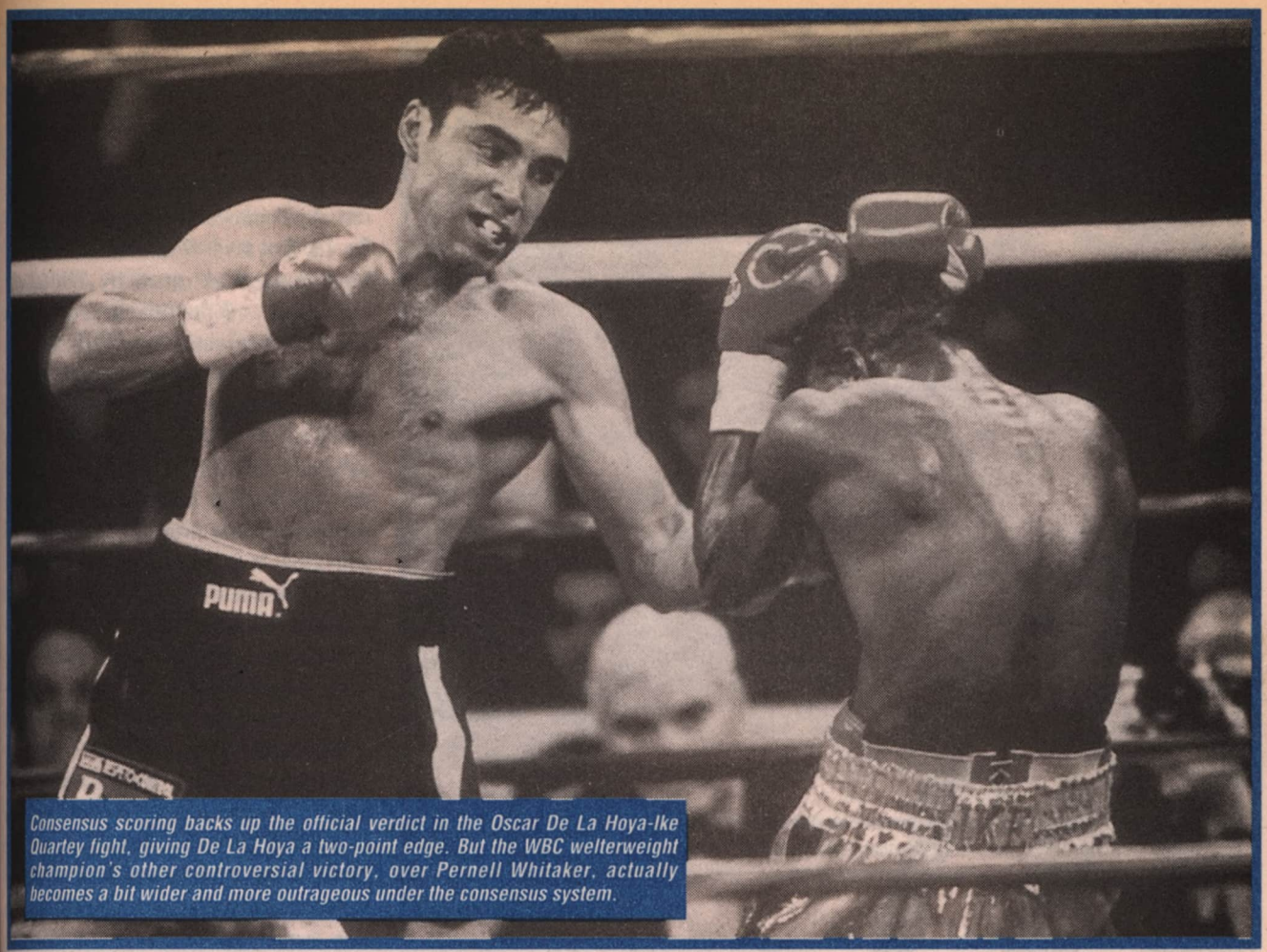
The advantage of the plan is that it takes the onus off a single judge's score. It dilutes unconscious bias on the part of a judge, helps to nullify an off-night by a judge, and makes it much more difficult for a judge who has been influenced in any way to have an overwhelming effect on the outcome of a bout.

The proof of the effectiveness of any plan is seeing it in operation. Applying the concept of consensus scoring to the Holyfield-Lewis bout would have resulted in Lennox Lewis winning a decision by the score of 115-113, or seven rounds to five *(see sidebar on this page)*.

In this instance, even with the skewed scoring of Eugenia Williams and the even rounds scored by Larry O'Connell (which led to his 115-115 draw), Lewis emerges as the winner, and the only controversy is the closeness of the score in a bout that

SCORECARD: LEWIS vs. HOLYFIELD

Round	Original Scoring	Consensus Scoring	Cumulative Score
1	All 3 for Lewis	10-9 Lewis	10-9 Lewis
2	All 3 for Lewis	10-9 Lewis	20-18 Lewis
3	All 3 for Holyfield	10-9 Holyfield	29-28 Lewis
4	2 for Lewis, 1 for Holyfield	10-9 Lewis	39-37 Lewis
5	2 for Lewis, 1 for Holyfield	10-9 Lewis	49-46 Lewis
6	2 for Lewis, 1 for Holyfield	10-9 Lewis	59-55 Lewis
7	2 for Lewis, 1 Even	10-9 Lewis	69-64 Lewis
8	All 3 for Holyfield	10-9 Holyfield	78-74 Lewis
9	All 3 for Holyfield	10-9 Holyfield	87-84 Lewis
10	2 for Holyfield, 1 Even	10-9 Holyfield	96-94 Lewis
11	All 3 for Holyfield	10-9 Holyfield	105-104 Lewis
12	All 3 for Lewis	10-9 Lewis	115-113 Lewis



Consensus scoring backs up the official verdict in the Oscar De La Hoya-Ike Quartey fight, giving De La Hoya a two-point edge. But the WBC welterweight champion's other controversial victory, over Pernell Whitaker, actually becomes a bit wider and more outrageous under the consensus system.

appeared to be dominated by Lewis.

Most impartial observers had the fight scored roughly 116-112, so a final tally of 115-113 isn't off by much. Even those who scored the fight in favor of Lewis by a wider margin could have lived with the 115-113 score. The most important thing is that with consensus scoring, the right fighter would have won the bout.

Of course, one fight doesn't offer immutable proof that consensus scoring works. To do that, it needs to be applied to other controversial decisions and, next to the Holyfield-Lewis outcome, no other recent bout came under as much scrutiny and as much criticism as the 1993 Pernell Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez fight. In that contest, two judges scored the fight even at 115-115, while the dissenting judge saw it 115-113 in favor of Whitaker. Instead of Whitaker handing Chavez his first loss, "Sweet Pea" had to settle for a majority draw. But the result would have looked much different using consensus scoring *(see sidebar on this page)*.

Another miscarriage of justice averted thanks to consensus scoring: Whitaker would have defeated Chavez just as clearly on the scorecards (seven rounds to four, with one round even) as he appeared to have done in the ring.

More evidence? The recent Oscar De La Hoya vs. Ike Quartey welterweight title fight was a close, hard-fought affair by all accounts, regardless of who you might have felt deserved the nod. Two of the official scorers had the bout for "The Golden Boy" at 116-113 and 116-112, while one judge gave the fight to Quartey by a 115-114 margin. Consensus scoring

SCORECARD: WHITAKER vs. CHAVEZ

Round	Original Scoring	Consensus Scoring	Cumulative Score
1	All 3 for Chavez	10-9 Chavez	10-9 Chavez
2	All 3 for Chavez	10-9 Chavez	20-18 Chavez
3	2 for Whitaker, 1 Even	10-9 Whitaker	29-28 Whitaker
4	2 for Whitaker, 1 for Chavez	10-9 Whitaker	38-38 Even
5	All 3 for Chavez	10-9 Chavez	48-47 Chavez
6	2 for Whitaker, 1 for Chavez	10-9 Whitaker	57-57 Even
7	All 3 for Whitaker	10-9 Whitaker	67-66 Whitaker
8	All 3 for Whitaker	10-9 Whitaker	77-75 Whitaker
9	2 for Chavez, 1 Even	10-9 Chavez	86-85 Whitaker
10	2 for Whitaker, 1 Even	10-9 Whitaker	96-94 Whitaker
11	2 for Whitaker, 1 Even	10-9 Whitaker	106-103 Whitaker
12	1 for Whitaker, 1 for Chavez, 1 Even	10-10 Even	116-113 Whitaker

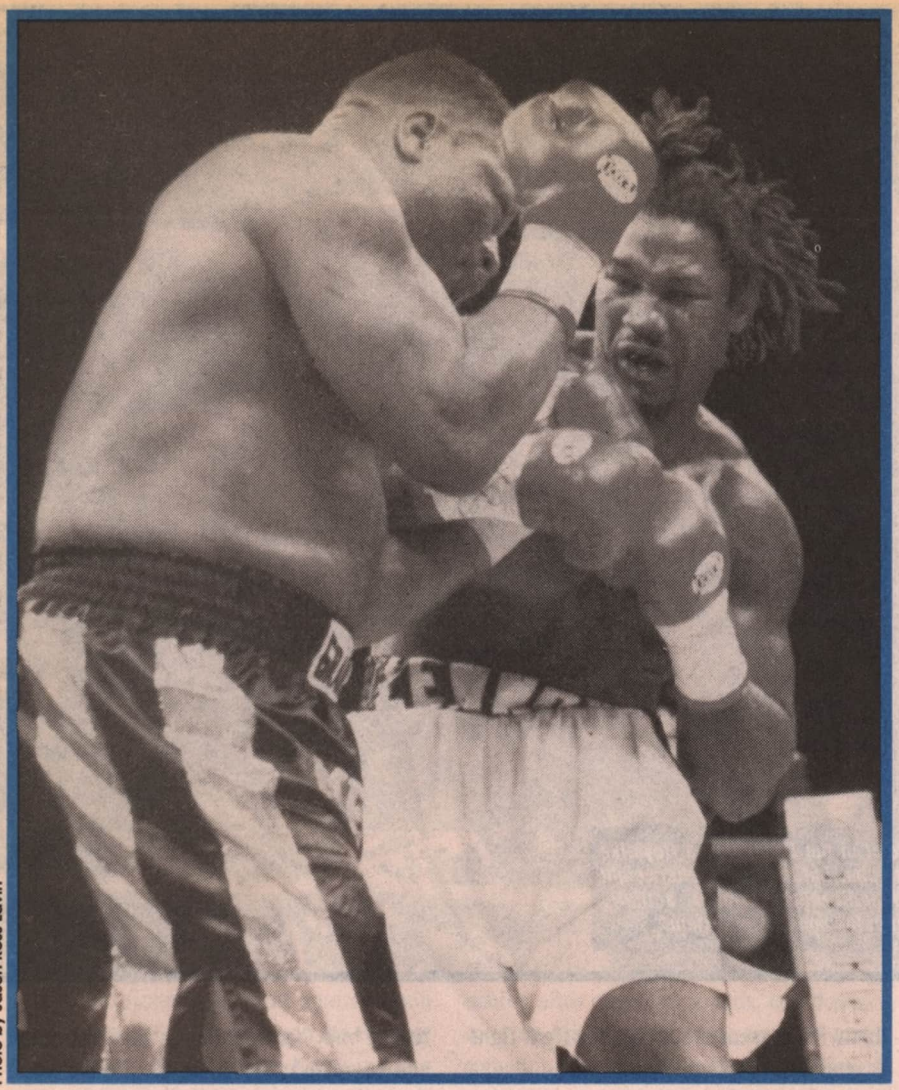


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Most observers felt the Lewis-Ray Mercer slugfest could have gone either way, but Lewis got the judges' nod. Under consensus scoring, the Brit is still a close decision winner.

confirms just how narrow the margin of victory was for De La Hoya, arriving at a score of 115-113 (or 6-5-1 in rounds, with the 12th being a two-point round for the WBC champ).

Consensus scoring also seems to put to rest any controversy surrounding the 1995 De La Hoya vs. Whitaker contest. In a bout marred as much by Whitaker's clowning and posturing as by De La Hoya's conservative approach, the fight polarized the boxing community. While it seems the majority of observers agreed that De La Hoya won the fight, many observers found fault with the scoring of the engagement, believing that Whitaker performed better than the 116-110 (twice) and 115-111 scores indicated. Consensus scoring resulted in an even more decisive 117-110 (10 rounds to 2, including a two-point round for Whitaker) outcome in favor of De La Hoya.

Another fight worth looking at is the 1996 Lennox Lewis vs. Ray Mercer bout. The outcome of the hotly contested 10-round fight had a profound effect on the heavyweight division. Both fighters came into the bout badly needing a victory. Lewis to prove that he could win a trench war, that he had the heart to match his size, and Mercer to prove that he deserved a title shot. The official scoring resulted in a close majority decision in favor of Lewis by scores of 96-95, 96-94, and 95-95. Applying the round-by-round scoring

IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT!

While the debate rages about whether or not boxing should go to open scoring, alter the points awarded per round, or simply toss a coin and read heads or tails, the best alternative to the 10-point must system might well be … the 10-point must system.

The 10-point must system provides all the flexibility that a judge could want if the points available are used in a more liberal fashion. In spite of the dominance of one fighter over the other in a given round, a fighter usually needs to score a knockdown if the frame's going to be scored 10-8.

The 10-9 round is so prevalent that newcomers to the sport might actually believe that a knockdown is mandated by the rules if a round is to be scored 10-8. It's not. Effective aggressiveness, landing clean punches, controlling the action are all criteria on which the scoring of a round can be based. A more liberal application of 10-8 rounds would strongly affect a judge's final tally and potentially give a truer indication of which fighter actually dominated the fight.

Likewise, there seems to be an unwritten rule that scoring a round 10-10 is an act so heinous that the perpetrator should be banished to the seventh circle of hell. While 10-10 rounds appear to be the ultimate in fence-straddling, there are, in actuality, a lot of rounds in which neither fighter holds even a slight edge. Removing the onus that currently accompanies 10-10 rounds would go a long way toward eliminating fighters winning a cheap round because they landed the only clean punch in the frame.

If judges are only going to score rounds 10-9 and 10-8, we can go back to the five-point must system or implement a three-point must system. The bottom line is that there's a range of 10 at the judges' disposal. Maybe the only thing wrong with boxing's current system goes back to another old saying, "You've got to be smarter than the tool to use it!"

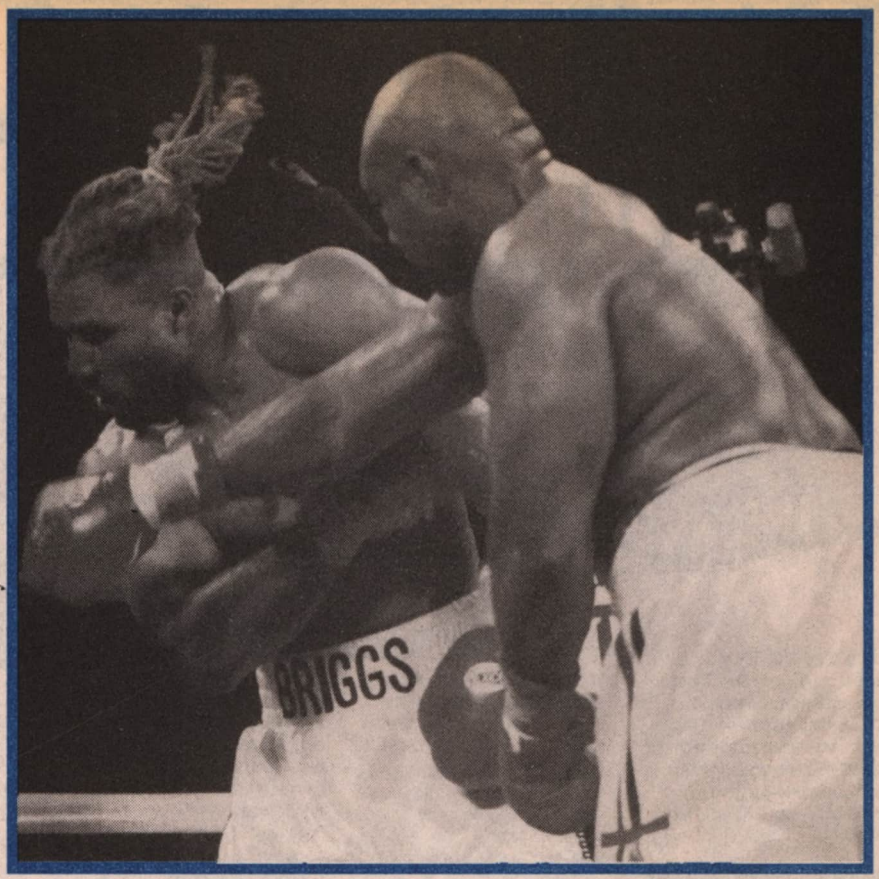
—JT

the judges to consensus scoring validates the Lewis win by a score of 96-94 (6-4 in rounds).

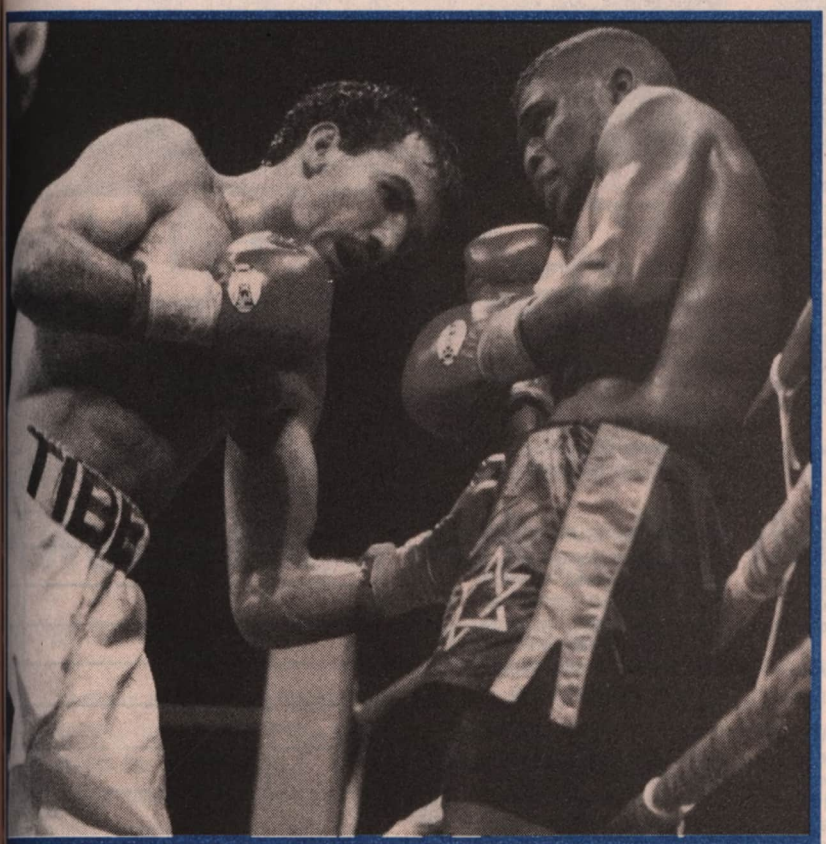
Is the concept of consensus scoring, then, the perfect solution to the problem of judging fights? Well, not quite. When all three judges, or even two of the three, see the fight in a lopsided fashion in favor of one fighter, nothing short an Act of Congress can right the wrong.

In the 1997 George Foreman vs. Shannon Briggs fight, consensus scoring gave Briggs the win by a score of 116-113, just one point closer than the four-point spread given to Briggs on two of the three judges' cards. At seven rounds to four with one even, consensus scoring did little to alleviate the ills in a bout that most boxing pundits felt should have been scored nine rounds to three in favor of Big George.

Finally, in a bout out of boxing's past, consensus scoring could have offered no solace to Dave Tiberi, who lost a highly disputed decision to then-middleweight champion James Toney in 1992. A forerunner to the south of the border holdup of Pernell Whitaker and the urban mugging



The fact that two judges gave Shannon Briggs a wide decision over George Foreman in their 1997 battle makes it impossible for consensus scoring to right this highly disputed decision.



Consensus scoring can't always correct utterly ridiculous scoring by multiple judges, as evidenced by the Dave Tiberi-James Toney fight that most believed Tiberi had won.

of Lennox Lewis, the Tiberi vs. Toney bout created a nationwide uproar. Consensus scoring managed to close the gap in the scoring a little, but still saw Toney the winner, 115-113 (seven rounds to five).

So, consensus scoring doesn't have all the answers. Nevertheless, it is a simpler, more effective method than any other suggested. While it can't compensate for outlandish margins of victory, neither can any other system. However, in cases where there is a slim divergence of opinion, consensus scoring consistently seems to result in the right fighter walking away with the win. That's all any fighter and any fight fan wants.

Rather than use a gimmick like 20-point rounds or trample on any more boxing traditions, as would be the case with open scoring, consensus scoring offers a simple, easily implemented option that works. And boxing is badly in need of anything that increases the likelihood that those who deserve to win get their hands raised. ■

Jim Trunzo is a freelance writer based in Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

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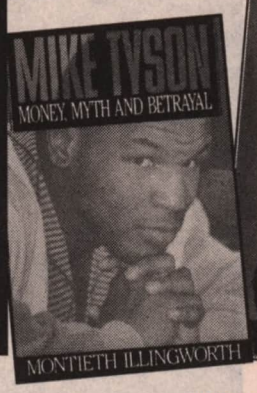

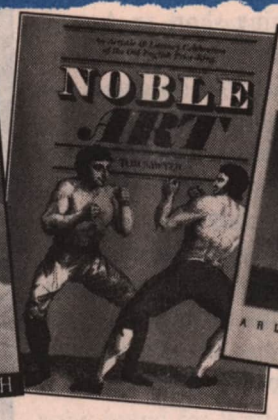

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Ayala leaves Bayside State Prison with his once and future wife, Lisa, on his arm. Among those also on hand for the fighter's first day of freedom in more than 16 years was his mother, Pauline (wearing black coat), and father, Tony Sr. (far right).

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

BULL SESSION WITH TONY AYALA JR.

"I Was A Major Jerk ... But I've Done My Time"

By Nigel Collins

Not many ex-cons get the kind of coming-out party Dr. Brian Raditz threw for Tony Ayala Jr. in the backyard of his stylish suburban home on a recent spring afternoon. There were half a dozen TV crews and three times as many print journalists jockeying for position around the swimming pool. And for those awaiting their turn to interview the guest of honor, there was a sumptuous catered luncheon set up under colorful canvas awnings. But Ayala, of course, is not just any ex-con. Until he was sent to jail for aggravated sexual assault in 1983, he was "El Torito," the undefeated Little Bull, one of the hottest properties in boxing. Now, 16 years later, Ayala is back, hoping for both personal and professional redemption, anxious to resume a boxing career that had taken him to the brink of a world title fight before it all went so horribly wrong—and even more anxious to prove that he's a changed man.

If you didn't know Ayala's history or hadn't seen him fight, you might have wondered what all the fuss was about. At 36 years of age, he is considerably heavier than when he cut a savage swathe through

the junior middleweight ranks, sending 19 of his 22 professional victims into dreamland before the sound of the final bell. Today, Ayala weighs around 180 pounds, and has a lot more wrinkles on his face and a lot less hair on top of his head than when he knocked out Carlos Herrera on NBC in his last fight before incarceration. But despite the ravages of time, the memory of this once-ferocious fighting machine is enough to stir more than a passing interest in his return. Ayala was something special, a fighter who then-manager Lou Duva called "another Marciano, another Graziano, all rolled into one." And for once, Capt. Lou wasn't overstating the case.

Raditz, who managed former lightweight contender Tracy Spann and had a brief two-bout pro career of his own, was a prison psychologist when he met Ayala in '83 at Trenton State Prison, where Raditz was director of psychology. Over the years, Raditz, now 45, went from counselor to friend to manager-adviser, and now considers Ayala a member of his extended family. He'd been there when few outside of Ayala's blood relatives wanted anything to do with the imprisoned slugger, and he was still there when Ayala was released from New Jersey's Bayside State Prison on April 20, 1999.

Interest in Ayala's release from prison was intense, and members of both the print and electronic media swarmed the Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, home of the fighter's manager-adviser, Dr. Brian Raditz, two days after the fighter's release.

Baby bull: Ayala in his prime as the number-one junior middleweight contender. He was scheduled to challenge Davey Moore for the WBA title when he was arrested in 1983 for aggravated sexual assault.

"As far as I'm concerned, Tony's already succeeded," Raditz told the *Philadelphia Daily News* a few days before Ayala's discharge. "He's won the war. He's turned his life around, regardless of what happens with the boxing thing."

Still, some have looked askance at the relationship, questioning the propriety of Ayala's former prison shrink becoming his professional manager. It is a criticism that Ayala is quick to refute.

"They question my relationship with Brian. They question Brian's ethics," said Ayala, the old fire suddenly burning in his brown eyes as he defended his friend and mentor. "But do you know what? Only a nut would think, 15 years ago, that I was going to make a comeback now. I don't recall many reporters being there 15 years ago. I don't remember getting many offers to accept my collect calls 15 years ago."

Yes, Ayala was written off as just another dangerous criminal, a rapist who'd thrown away his future and had to be locked away for the good of humanity. But during his lengthy incarceration, Ayala claims to have undergone a profound change for the better, a change in which Raditz played a major role.

"I don't hide from my past. I don't run away from my past," said Ayala. "Was I a jerk? I was a major jerk, and I hurt some people. But I've done my time. I'm not here to please people unconditionally. I have to stay true to myself. That's one of the things Brian taught me: Do what's right based in accordance to what your code of life is. It doesn't mean you have to agree with it. It just means I have to be able to live with myself."

Although Ayala believes he's reached a point in his development where he can deal with the ghosts of his past, he understands that there are some people who will always hold his history against him.

"Why do they want me to fail? Because I'm an ex-con," said Ayala. "They feel that it's justified that I fall on my face. It bothers me that they question the motives of my team, question the sincerity of my words. But those people who question me, I'll never be able to convince them. I could discover a cure for AIDS; I could end cancer; I could extend life by 50 years. And do you know what? Those people would still say, 'Yeah, but he's gonna break the law soon. We know that.' So why even waste that energy? I want to hear from these people in 10 years. I want to hear from them in 20 years. I want them

to step up to the plate then, and say, 'Yo, I was wrong, and I was a jerk.' Just like I am now saying that about my past."

Ayala also understands how boxing and his ability to generate significant amounts of money helped, for a time, camouflage his serious emotional problems, problems that began when he was sexually molested as a child and were later acerbated by drug and alcohol addiction. He was already on probation for a previous sexual assault when he was arrested for the crime that put him in jail for 16 years. Had Ayala not been a money machine able to pay high-powered lawyers and make a large cash settlement with his first victim, the second crime would never have occurred because he would have already been in jail.

"Life ain't boxing, man. And that's where I've changed. Knocking out some guy doesn't justify getting drunk. Knocking out somebody else doesn't justify beating my wife or getting arrested because I'm using drugs. That's stupid."

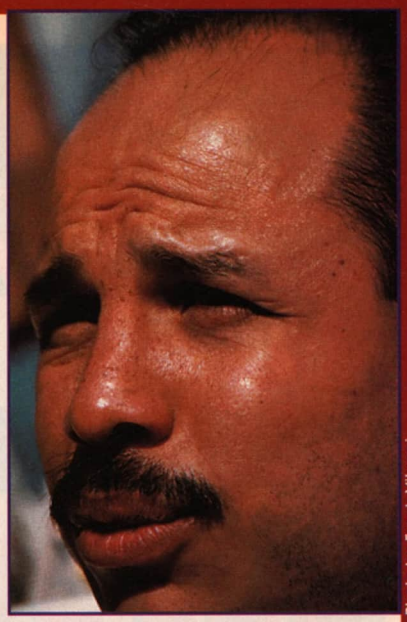


Photo by Frank Vitucci

"Life ain't boxing, man. And that's where I've changed," Ayala said. "Knocking out a guy doesn't justify getting drunk. Knocking out somebody else doesn't justify beating my wife or getting arrested because I'm using drugs. That's stupid. I used to live my life like that. When I used to get in trouble, the first thing I would think was, *All I've got to do is win my next fight. Dad will get me a fight, and that will solve my problems.* That's stupid, that doesn't solve problems. It fooled me into thinking that I was okay."

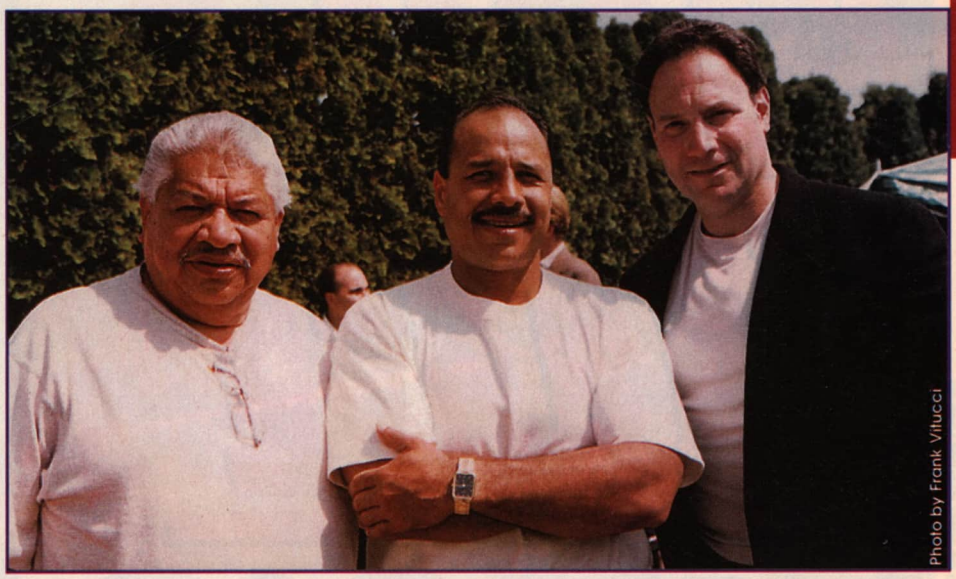


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Together, Tony Ayala Sr. and Dr. Brian Raditz hope to help Tony Jr. realize his dream of becoming a world champion. The pair stuck by him throughout his incarceration and are now helping him readjust to life on the outside.

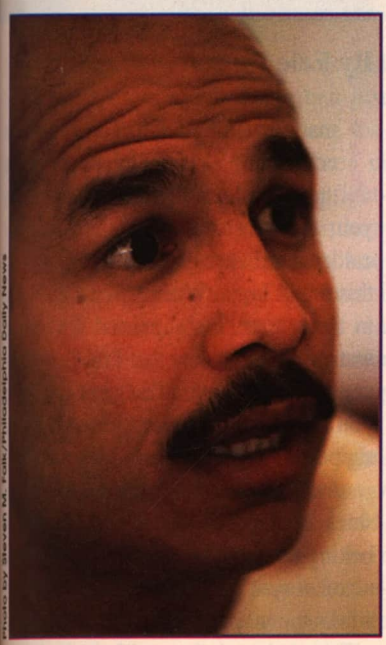


Photo by Steven M. Falk/Philadelphia Daily News

"Just because you're a fighter, it doesn't mean you're a violent person outside of the ring. My problems had to do with being out of control and not having the skills to deal with certain issues. I've gained those skills and I've learned how to deal with those issues."

While Ayala is positive that his personal growth has progressed to the point that he'll never again be a menace to society, he's far more circumspect when it comes to analyzing his chances of punching his way back to the top of the boxing heap. He stayed fit in prison, running and doing calisthenics, but hasn't been in a boxing ring since Rahway, where he was sent after Trenton State, outlawed boxing in the early-1990s.

"I never saw boxing as part of my life when I was in prison," said Ayala. "I wasn't in prison because I was a fighter; I was in prison because I committed a horrible crime. I was paying my debt to soci-

(Continued on page 56)

Taking Stock In The Fight Game

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

A royal disappointment: Though Prince Naseem Hamed did dispose of Paul Ingle in exciting fashion in April, the public is growing tired of seeing him against opponents who have no chance of winning. Naz hasn't faced a true test since his scare against Kevin Kelley in '97.

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

By Eric Raskin

Imagine putting a Pop Tart in the toaster, hearing a "ding" a couple of minutes later, and finding upon removing your breakfast pastry that it's somehow colder than when you started. Obviously this defies logic. When you put a Pop Tart in the toaster, it's supposed to come out warm. When you eat that Pop Tart, you're supposed to become less hungry. When you brush your teeth afterward, they're supposed to end up clean.

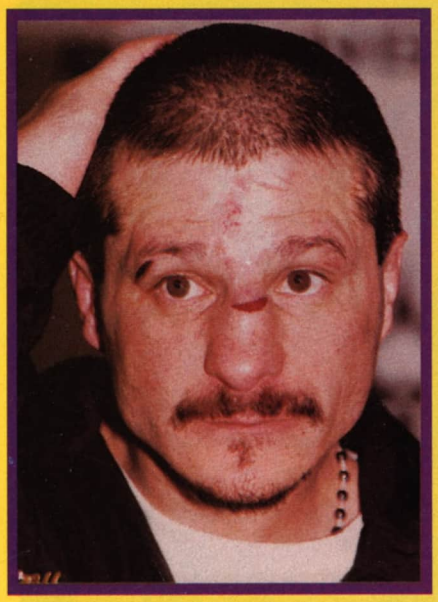
And when a boxer is winning, his stock is supposed to rise. But the sport of boxing doesn't work in the most traditional of ways, and understanding why it works the way it does is much more complicated than just getting your broken toaster repaired. Who's hot and who's cold in boxing is about much more than just who's been winning and who's been losing. It's how impressive you've been in victory or defeat, how often you're fighting, whom you're fighting against, how marketable you are, and ultimately, how the public is responding to you. Because of all of these factors, a fighter's stock can often rise in defeat, and, conversely, it can plummet even without any losses being attached to his record.

It's fairly obvious who the hottest fighters in the world are *(see sidebar on page 40)*. What's less apparent is who the coldest boxers are, and why some of their features have slipped though they may continue to win. Clearly, once-hot guys like Arturo Gatti, Danny Romero, and Tom Johnson qualify as cold because they've been losing all their recent significant fights. But why has the buzz of excitement faded from other stars who continue to win, and perhaps even dominate?

One of the most common reasons for a guy on a winning streak going cold with the public is the perception that the fighter is ducking the best available opposition. A classic example of this right now is Prince Naseem Hamed, whose egotistical bragging and flamboyant eccentricities make him an easy target for public disfavor when he fails to back up his talk.

Since Hamed's electrifying American debut against Kevin Kelley in December of '97 placed him behind only the likes of Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, and Oscar De La Hoya in terms of boxing stardom, "The Prince" has repeatedly disappointed fans with his hand-picked opponents. Kennedy McKinney, who knocked out Junior Jones on the Hamed-Kelley show at Madison Square Garden, was the perceived threat as Hamed prepared to return to action the following April; Naz instead took on over-the-hill Wilfredo Vazquez. Hamed then pulled out of a July '98 date with McKinney, and when an October match also dissolved, the British featherweight announced that he was meeting no-hoper Wayne McCullough instead. Instead of his predicted third-round knockout, Hamed had to run his way to a unanimous decision, completely erasing the momentum his win over Kelley had created.

Though Hamed's win over Paul Ingle in April of '99 was rather exciting, Naz



Johnny Tapia doesn't look like a happy camper in this photo, and his fans aren't too pleased either. Though he continues to win, overmatched opposition and an increasingly boring style are hurting Tapia's once soaring popularity.

Picking on middle-aged journeymen like Jesse Ferguson hasn't helped Andrew Golota's popularity, even though some might say the Polish tough guy is fighting better than ever before. Look for more easy fights for Golota as he stalls for a shot at Mike Tyson.

looked very vulnerable against yet another overmatched opponent whom nobody outside the Ingle camp was begging to see him face. Now, with dangerous opponents like Erik Morales, Marco Antonio Barrera, and repeatedly ducked mandatory challenger Juan Manuel Marquez waiting in line, Hamed is talking of unifying the featherweight crown against fighters like IBF champion Manuel Medina—who was already knocked out by Hamed in 1996. Had Hamed mixed in one attractive opponent since Kelley (such as McKinney, who Luisito Espinosa proved last November was not really a risk after all), maybe his popularity curve would be doing more of an Aerosmith and less of a Hootie and the Blowfish.

A similar case is that of Johnny Tapia, who, since decisioning Danny Romero for the IBF junior bantamweight title in July

TOO HOT TO HANDLE

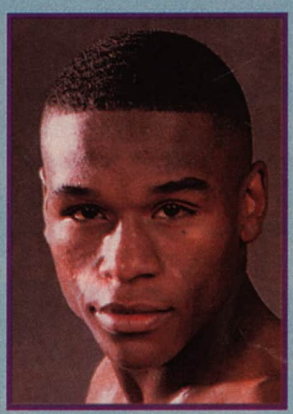
Though a fighter's popularity and momentum can change at any given moment, the following is THE RING's ranking of the 10 hottest fighters in the sport as of press time:

1. Floyd Mayweather: A 22-year-old champion with a smile as good as the gold he was denied in Atlanta. Silenced fans who complain that the best fights never get made by destroying the two most dangerous opponents in his division before his career was 20 fights old.

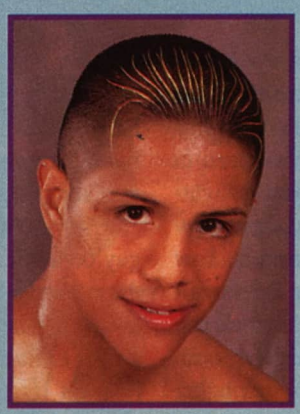
2. Shane Mosley: Lit up the lightweight division by making title defenses almost every other month with a style so captivating that even his one-sided fights are always entertaining. Now preparing to lend his surging star power to the junior welterweight class.

3. Oscar De La Hoya: Off-the-canvas win over Ike Quartey reminded us that boxing's "Golden Boy" is indeed on a skill level on par with his incredible commercial value. For just about half a decade now, the fight game's biggest star outside the heavyweight division.

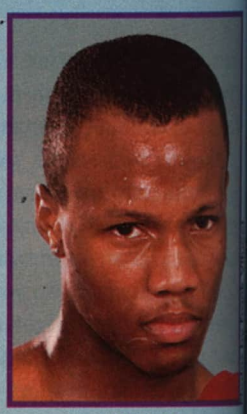
4. Ike Ibeabuchi: Seems to be picking up where Mike Tyson left off as the heavyweight division's most intimidating (and emotionally unstable) attraction. Has wiped out the undefeated records of David Tua and Chris Byrd, and has many thinking he could do the same to Michael Grant.



Floyd Mayweather



Fernando Vargas



Zab Judah

Photo by Tom Casino/HBO

Michael Grant encountered some rough moments against ordinary Ahmad Abdin in January. Coupled with Ike Ibeabuchi's spectacular knockout of Chris Byrd, the performance may have caused Grant's stock to drop amongst the young heavyweights.

Since proving himself with a win over Ray Oliveira in November of '97, Atlanta welterweight Vernon Forrest has failed to take the next step and continues to be an afterthought in discussions of the world's best 147-pounders.

of '97, has faced the following relative nobodies: Andy Agosto, Rodolfo Blanco, Carlos Hernandez, and Alberto Martinez. That's not to say he hasn't faced any decent opposition in the past two years; he was scheduled at press time to face the slick, well-schooled Paulie Ayala, and the man from whom he took the WBA bantamweight title last December, Nana Konadu, was no slouch. But the dull, defensive strategy Tapia employed to beat the Ghanaian didn't win him any fans, and all the Konadus and Ayalas in the world won't erase Tapia's refusal to recognize that the outstanding Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson is still calling him out. Two years ago, Tapia was the hottest little man in the sport. Now, well, he's still little.

Someone who's not little but has seen his appeal dip in much the same manner as Tapia's is Andrew Golota. In a sad statement about our society, Golota's Q-rating was peaking following his two disqualification losses to Riddick Bowe in 1996, but it took a tremendous hit when Lennox Lewis blitzed "The Foul Pole" in October of '97. Still, Golota was given a fourth chance by the generous boxing public, and has made the least of it. With the notable exception of his July '98 war with Corey Sanders, the Polish heavyweight has adopted a safety-first approach and a predilection toward fortysomething opponents. He tip-toed around Tim Witherspoon and Jesse Ferguson on his way to easy decision victories, and now the word is that he'll be going back home to Poland to face yet another second-tier heavyweight of yesteryear, Tyrell Biggs. The easy opposition makes plenty of sense; Golota's holding out for a big-money fight with Tyson, so why take any chances? But when Brian Nielsen, the far-from-great Dane, knocked Witherspoon out in four rounds recently, it underlined how unspectacular Golota has been in victory.

For some fighters, being hot or cold can be relative. Undefeated heavyweight

5. Fernando Vargas: Like Mayweather, fell short in pursuit of Olympic gold, but wasted little time earning it as a pro. Californian has backed up enough of his brash talk in his first 16 fights that nobody's scoffing anymore when he calls out De La Hoya.

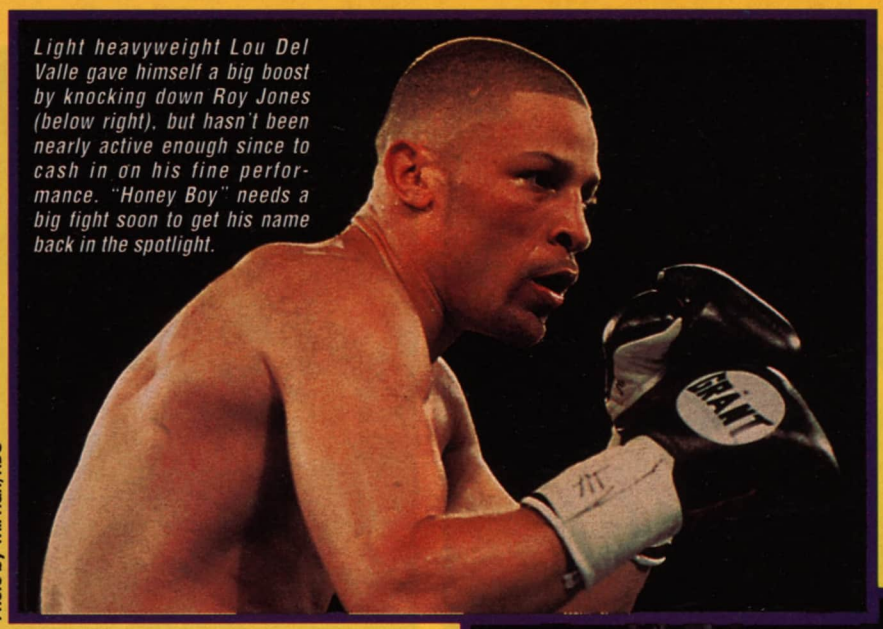
6. Lennox Lewis: Became the people's heavyweight champion and a sympathetic hero when he was screwed by the judges following his bout with Evander Holyfield. At 33, by far the oldest man on this list, but probably hotter now than he's ever been in his 10-year career.

7. Erik Morales: WBC super bantam champ's popularity in Mexico seems destined to rival that of Julio Cesar Chavez even if he never gets halfway to 100 wins. Like Mosley, defends often, and hasn't allowed a challenger to last the distance yet.

8. Zab Judah: Brooklyn prospect's name generates such a buzz in boxing circles that some people are putting him on their pound-for-pound lists before he's even fought for a title. Speed and southpaw style remind some of Pernell Whitaker, but his punching power and charm sure don't.

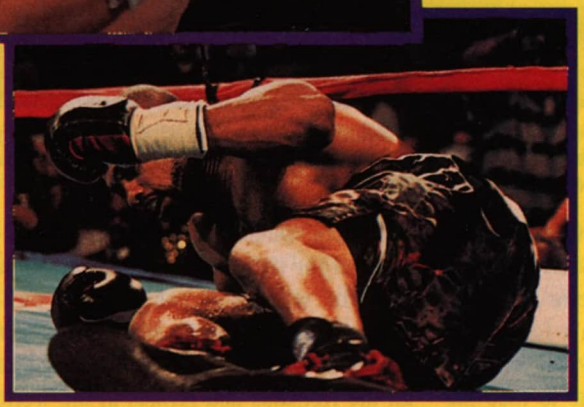
9. Angel Manfredy: Looked so good beating Ivan Robinson that you have to wonder if he could have come back and beaten Mayweather had the ref given him an opportunity. Always intense personality may rub some the wrong way, but the bottom line is that "El Diablo" is never in a bad fight.

10. David Reid: Not as hot as Olympic teammates Mayweather and Vargas, nor as dominant winning world title, but still a young, engaging star with startling one-punch power. Will forever have built-in popularity as a result of saving America from going gold-less in Atlanta.



Light heavyweight Lou Del Valle gave himself a big boost by knocking down Roy Jones (below right), but hasn't been nearly active enough since to cash in on his fine performance. "Honey Boy" needs a big fight soon to get his name back in the spotlight.

Photo by Will Hart/HBO



Michael Grant seems, on the surface, to be hot. Many experts have long been calling him the heavyweight of the future, and he's done nothing to diminish that standing. But what has he done to improve his position in the past year or so? Knockouts of David Izon and Obed Sullivan in the first half of '98 placed Grant on the doorstep of stardom, but since then, he was inactive for eight months for a variety of reasons, and got mixed reviews for his 10th-round kayo of little-known former sparring partner Ahmad Abdin. He hasn't exactly gone cold, but he has cooled off and seen his popularity level out, especially since Ike Ibeabuchi stopped Chris Byrd in March to nudge ahead of him in the minds of most.

To an even greater extent than Grant, fellow Main Events fighter Vernon Forrest is a rising contender whose momentum has stalled out. Welterweight Forrest was never as hot as Grant still is now, but the '92 Olympian has really lost what luster he did have, watching three members of the '96 U.S. Olympic team beat him to world titles. It may not be Forrest's fault that 28 fights into his career, he's still fighting journeymen like Steve Martinez, Mark Fernandez, and Ed Griffin instead of superstars like De La Hoya, Felix Trinidad, and Ike Quartey. He claims nobody wants to fight him because the risk is not worth the reward to the established welters, and he's probably right. But Forrest's string of bouts against shoddy opposition buried deep on untelevised undercards when he has the talent to be an HBO headliner has nonetheless caused his value to drop.

In many ways, even worse than a quality fighter consistently facing subpar opposition is a quality fighter consistently facing no opposition. Inactivity is the surest route to obscurity. Just ask WBA super middleweight champion Frankie Liles, the poster boy for dormancy. Liles never quite qualified for inclusion in discussions of boxing's hottest stars, but he has been rated by THE RING as the top 168-pounder in the world ever since Roy Jones abandoned the division in early-'97. Yet, due primarily to disputes with promoter Don King, Liles has not fought since April 3, 1998, when he managed a close decision win over mediocre Andrei Schkalikov. It's anyone's guess why Liles hasn't been stripped of the WBA title, but he has been stripped of any popularity he may have had, and for a 34-year-old fighter, that's bad news.

Lou Del Valle, strangely enough, was gaining popularity following a high-profile loss, but has since entered into an inexplicable Liles-like layoff, and his standing has suffered. The former WBA light heavyweight champion became the first man to knock down Roy Jones in July of '98, but failed to capitalize on his strong showing which ended with Jones taking a unanimous decision. He has fought just once since, that an eight-round decision win above his normal weight in a non-televised bout with unknown Tyrone Armstead last September. It had the feel of a typical tune-up, but do you really need to tune up for a prolonged vacation?

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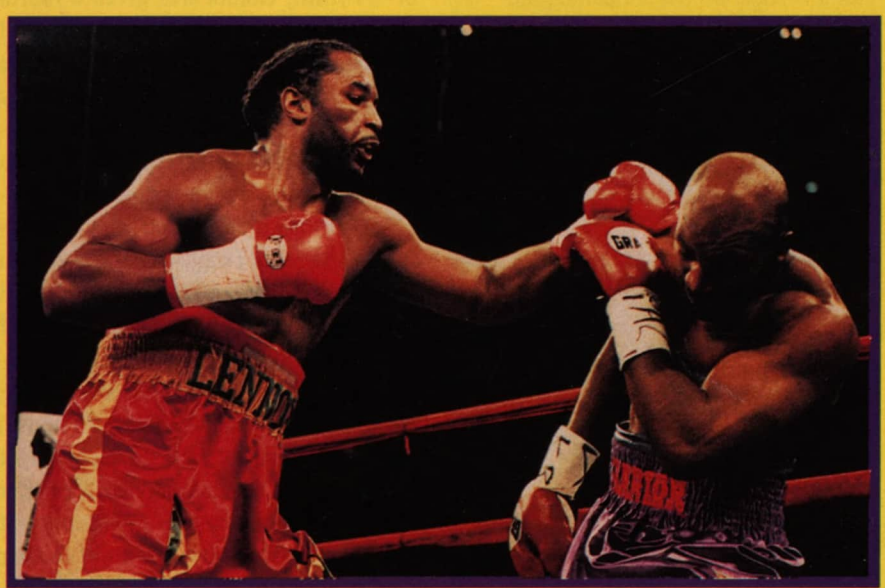

Getting dominated by Lennox Lewis wasn't necessarily as big a blow to Evander Holyfield's popularity as "The Real Deal's" refusal to admit Lewis deserved to win. It might have been in Holyfield's best interest to hand the WBA and IBF belts to the Brit, since he'll be getting a rematch anyway.

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Klitschko, V	$65,000
Klitschko, W	$60,000
Lewis, L	$175,000
Mahone, E	$ 55,000
Mercer, R	$100,000
Moorer, M	$95,000
Rahman, H	$80,000
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Del Valle, L	$80,000
Frazier, R	$50,000
Griffin, M	$90,000
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Harding, E	$80,000
Harmon, D	$40,000
Hill, V	$100,000
Johnson, R	$125,000
Jones, Jr. R	$200,000
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Rocchigiani, G	$75,000
Tarver, A	$100,000
Taylor, W	$65,000
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McCracken, R	$105,000
Obah, D	$85,000
Oulette, S	$85,000
Rhodes, R	$60,000
Rosenblatt, D	$80,000
Ruvalcaba, R	$25,000
Schenk, B	$35,000
Vazquez, JC	$90,000
Venancio, P	$70,000

JR. MIDDLES

Artango, E	$60,000
Boudouani, L	$100,000
Camacho, H	$85,000
Campas, Y	$100,000
Castillejo, J	$115,000
Ciarlante, D	$30,000
Coker, J	$50,000
Jones, G	$60,000
Kelly, K	$50,000
Linton, E	$50,000
Marquez, R	$95,000
Marshall, T	$75,000
McKart, B	$60,000
Mullings, K	$95,000
Ortega, P	$25,000
Reid, D	$175,000
Simon, H	$100,000
Thiam, M	$40,000
Vargas, F	$175,000
Wright, W	$90,000

WELTERWEIGHTS

Carr, O	$100,000
Chavez, JC	$90,000
Coley, D	$90,000
De La Hoya, O	$200,000
Forrest, V	$100,000
Gamache, J	$25,000
Garr, S	$65,000
Haugen, G	$40,000
Katejev, A	$40,000
Lewis, A	$55,000
Lopez, T	$55,000
Lopez, JL	$90,000
Mitchem, B	$40,000
Page, J	$135,000
Pettaway, V	$90,000
Pestraiev, A	$85,000
Quartey, I	$125,000
Randall, F	$80,000
Rivera, W	$90,000
Taylor, S	$90,000
Trinidad, F	$200,000
Whitaker, P	$100,000

JR. WELTERS

Camacho, Jr.	$60,000
Chaves, I	$50,000
Diaz, A	$40,000
Gonzalez, B	$75,000
Gonzalez, MA	$100,000
Green, R	$85,000
Hurtado, D	$90,000
Judah, Z	$115,000
McClendon, V	$65,000
Millett, T	$110,000
Mitchell, S	$125,000
Pendleton, F	$55,000
Phillips, V	$100,000
Quiroz, H	$90,000
Rahilou, K	$90,000
Ruelas, R	$80,000
Spinks, C	$65,000
Tszyu, K	$115,000
Wheeler, J	$60,000

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Bazan, C	$90,000
Brown, J	$65,000
Cardona, I	$105,000
Cassamayor, J	$60,000
Cassamonica, S	$25,000
Gatti, A	$95,000
Gregorian, V	$80,000
Holliday, P	$90,000
Johnson, G	$75,000
Johnson, L	$80,000
Johnston, S	$110,000
Leija, J	$80,000
Manfredy, A	$105,000
Mendy, JB,	$125,000
Mosley, S	$200,000
N'Dou L	$35,000
Nazarov, O	$105,000
Rios, A	$25,000
Robinson, I	$100,000
Schwer, B	$85,000
Sicurella, A	$70,000
Tackie, B	$75,000

JR. LIGHTS

Alexandrov, A	$75,000
Castillo, A	$70,000
Chavez, J	$75,000
Choi, YS	$100,000
Duran, S	$40,000
Gainer, D	$100,000
Garcia, R	$140,000
Hatekeyama, T	$125,000
Hernandez, G	$95,000
Holbaek, D	$60,000
Jones, J	$95,000
Juuko, J	$70,000
Ledon, R	$80,000
Lorcy, J	$50,000
Mayweather, F	$200,000
Ruelas, G	$85,000
Vargas, G	$95,000
Warren, H	$80,000

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Canizales, O	$95,000
Cermeno, A	$105,000
Chacon, P	$85,000
DeJesus, R	$50,000
Espinosa, L	$125,000
Hamed, N	$200,000
Ingle, P	$50,000
Lizzaraga, H	$85,000
Marquez, JM	$105,000
Medina, M	$95,000
Norwood, F	$110,000
Polo, V	$60,000
Quinones, B	$35,000
Ramirez, JC	$25,000
Rious, C	$25,000
Robinson, S	$55,000
Soto, C	$90,000
Vazquez, A	$85,000
Vazquez, W,	$85,000
Wehbee, T	$50,000

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS

Acero-Sanchez, H	$90,000
Barotillo, A	$30,000
Barrera, MA	$100,000
Bareto, C	$80,000
Botile, M	$80,000
Bungu, V	$135,000
Del Valle, R	$90,000
Espadas, G	$45,000
Garza, N	$120,000
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Morales, E	$175,000
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DENNY & PHIL MOYER

They Still Remember Their "Sweetest" Moments

The Moyer brothers had a number of opponents in common; one of them was Don Jordan. Younger brother Denny challenged Jordan for the welterweight title in 1959, losing a 15-round decision (left). The next year, Phil avenged the family name by outpointing Jordan (below), by then an ex-champ.

By Pete Ehrmann

Harry Moyer taught his sons to walk away from a fight when they were kids. There were plenty of big name welterweight and middleweight boxers who wished Denny and Phil Moyer had carried that philosophy into adulthood. Relying on other things their father imparted to them, one became a world champion and the other might have but for physical problems that cut short his career.

"My dad taught us how to box when we were old enough to walk," recalled Denny, a fixture in the 147- and 160-pound rankings for most of his 17-year pro career, and the first junior middleweight champion recognized by the WBA.

"We were," said Phil, "a boxing family."

Harry's father had boxed, and Harry won several Golden Gloves titles in the '30s. His brother, Tom Moyer, was national amateur lightweight champion in 1941. But it wasn't obeisance to fam tradition that moved Harry to put t gloves on his sons.

"Their mom passed away pretty you and I thought I'd get 'em off the stre and keep 'em busy, and we'd be togeth lot," said the Moyer patriarch, now who still walks six miles a day and pou the bag in his Milwaukie, Oregon, home.

By the time they were in high school, Portland's fighting Moyer brothers were known throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 1956, when Phil was 17 and Denny a year younger, they were the sensation of the national Amateur Athletic Association tournament in Boston. Phil was eliminated by future Olympic gold medalist and middleweight contender Wilbert "Skeeter" McClure in the 156-pound semifinals, and 147-pound Denny lost a decision to Jackson Brown in his division's final.

The next year, while Phil was fighting for Idaho State University's National Collegiate Athletic Association ring program, Denny went all the way at 156 pounds, beating Thomas Brown in the AAU finals. They turned pro on the same card in Portland on August 17, 1957. Denny won a decision, and Phil knocked his man out.

"Denny didn't have the punch I did, but he had lots of skills," said Phil, now 60.

"I was more of a boxer than a puncher," agreed Denny. "I was not real fast, but I seemed to stay one step ahead."

The question of which brother was better overall in the ring is still a matter of good-natured sibling rivalry.

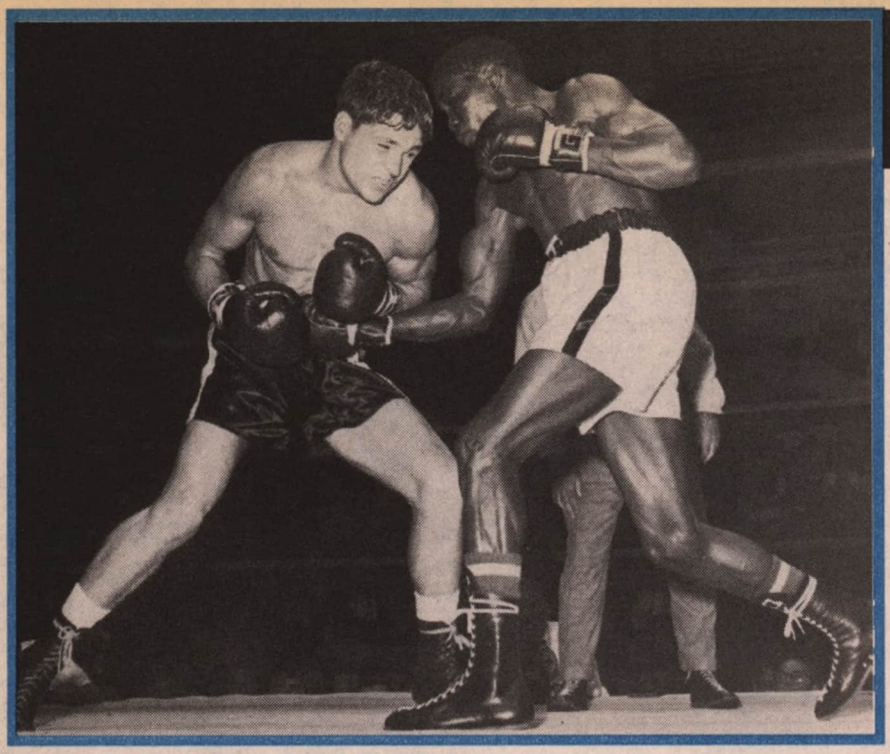
"He got farther than I did, so he must be better," said Phil. "But I thought I was better. I could generally handle him in the gym."

Said Denny: "I won the title and Phil didn't, so ... He could control things pretty much in our workouts, being the older brother, you now. But getting in the ring for big stuff was a different story."

Dad's vote makes it a split-decision for Denny.

"Phil could handle Denny in a workout, on account of being the older brother," said Harry. "But in a fight, it would've been different."

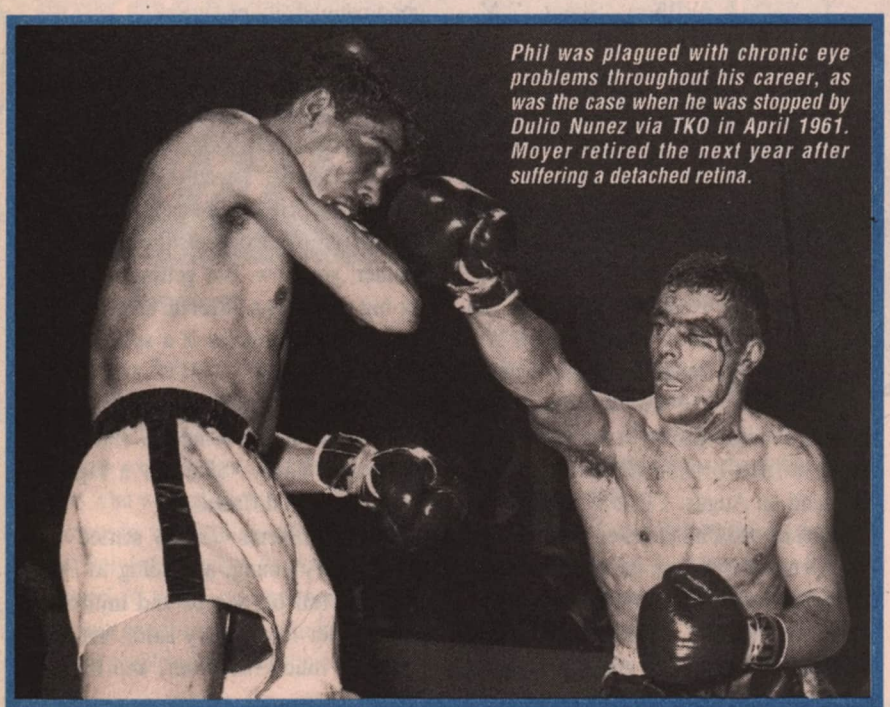
Phil's problems actually started when he was very young, according to Harry, when he fell off a roof and injured his back. After that, Harry said, "he never could do much roadwork, and that was



Denny fought 15 world champions during his t years as a pro, among them Benny "Kid" Pare whom Moyer decisioned in 1960. Unfortunate for Moyer, it was a non-title bout and Pare welterweight belt wasn't on the line.

Phil's downfall." Another problem occurred when a misplaced thumb by Germany's Peter Muller inflamed one of Phil's eyes in their June 16, 1958, bout in Portland. It was big brother's first pro loss, and the start of the eye problem that would plague him for the rest of his career, and eventually end it.

Meanwhile, Denny went undefeated in his first two years of paid fighting, and was the first Fighting Moyer to make it to Madison Square Garden. He was only 19, and *New York Times* reporter William Conklin wrote that Denny "could pass for a choir boy if he wore a cassock instead of ring trunks." But there was nothing but praise from press row after the Portland baby face won his 18th bout by outboxing veteran welterweight contender Gaspar "Indian" Ortega on January 2, 1959. A month later, the Portland teenager qualified for a world title fight by outpointing Vince Martinez.



Phil was plagued with chronic eye problems throughout his career, as was the case when he was stopped by Dulio Nunez via TKO in April 1961. Moyer retired the next year after suffering a detached retina.

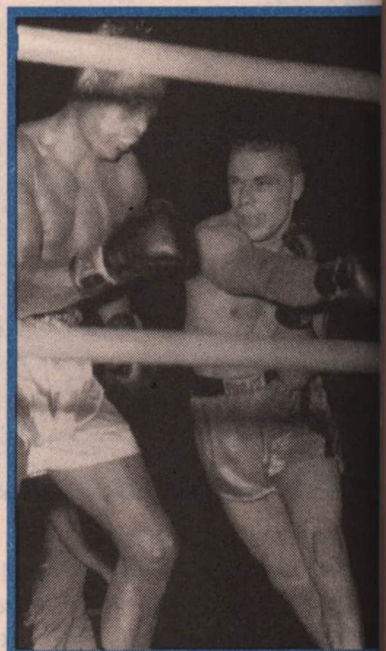
It was nerves as much as anything we terweight titlist Don Jordan did that resul ed in a unanimous 15-round decision fo the defending champion on July 10, 195 The fight was held at the Portlan Meadows Race Track, with 7,500 person on hand to cheer on the local hero, wh went into the ring wondering if he had an business being there.

"I was nervous as heck," recalle Denny. "It was a title fight, and I wa thinking to myself, *What am I doing her fighting for a title?* I couldn't believe it."

"He froze up," said Harry. "He finall woke up late in the fight, and in the la rounds did all right. He was just awed to much. We'd say, 'God, Denny, jus because he's champion, that doesn't mak him any different from anyone else.' Bu he just held back. You know how kids are."

A year later almost to the day, Phil fought Jordan in a Portland 10-rounder "I'll have to show you how to beat him," he teased Denny before going out and win ning a decision over the then ex-champion.

Rebounding from his first loss, Denn



Phil felt that his finest ring performance came against Ray Robinson, whom he decisioned in 1962. But, as Phil's father pointed out, Sugar Ray was 41 at the time while his son was only 23.

beat former world champs Paddy DeMarco, Virgil Akins, and Tony DeMarco, and on March 11, 1960, heard a crowd at Madison Square Garden boo after Emile Griffith was awarded a split 10-round verdict over him. Denny and Griffith, who would win the 147-pound title three times and the middleweight crown twice, met two more times. Moyer won the second one in Portland, and the tie-breaker, in Tacoma, Washington, went to Griffith by another split decision.

In between the second and third Griffith matches, Denny upset Benny "Kid" Paret (who'd taken the welterweight crown from Jordan) in a non-title bout at the Garden. He then had two fights there against the boxer considered by many the greatest to ever don gloves.

By then, Moyer was long past the point of being unnerved by an opponent's reputation and credentials, and called it "just another fight" when he met Sugar Ray Robinson on October 21, 1961. The legendary Robinson had won the welterweight title in 1946, and five times since then had been 160-pound champion.

"I was 23, and he was 41, and he was a handful," remembered Moyer.

While Sugar Ray boxed from long range all night, Moyer tried to mix it up and scored well when he was able to get inside. At the end of the 10th round, they were trading so hotly that neither fighter heard the final bell. The announcement of the unanimous decision giving Robinson his 144th victory "was almost drowned in boos from many of the 7,800 fans," reported the *Times* the next day.

A less intense rematch held the following February saw Robinson (who later wrote in his autobiography that he'd been doped beforehand) lose seven of the 10 rounds on all three official scorecards in what was his final bout at the Garden.

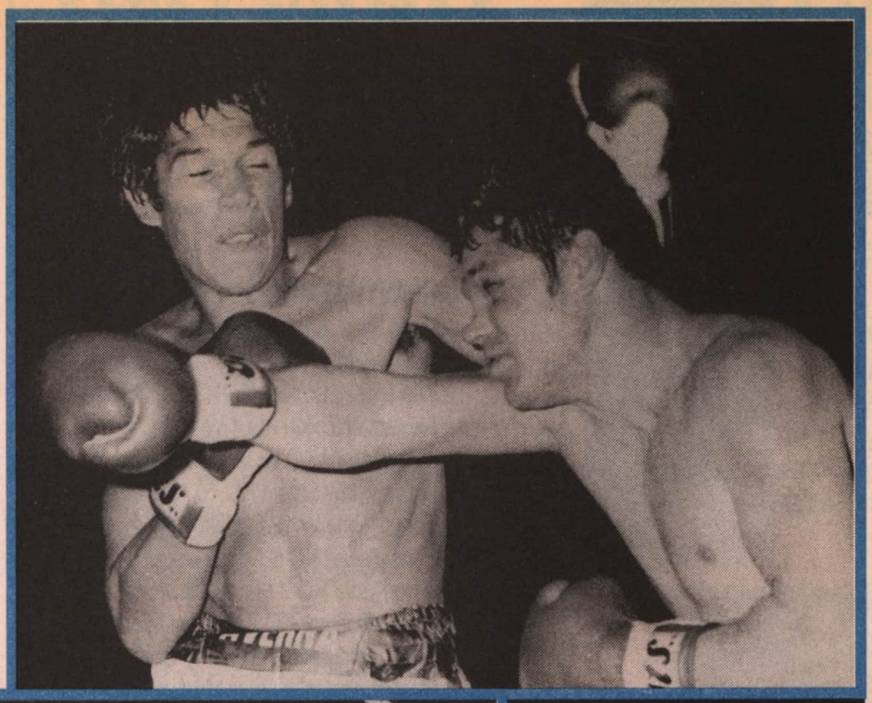
As an amateur in the early-'40s, Sugar Ray—then boxing under his real name, Walker Smith—had beaten Denny's uncle, Tommy. His record against the Moyer family dropped to 2-2 when Phil won a split decision over him in Los Angeles five months after the ex-champ's rematch with Denny. Phil had the aging icon hanging on in the final stages of what he recalls as his finest night in the ring.

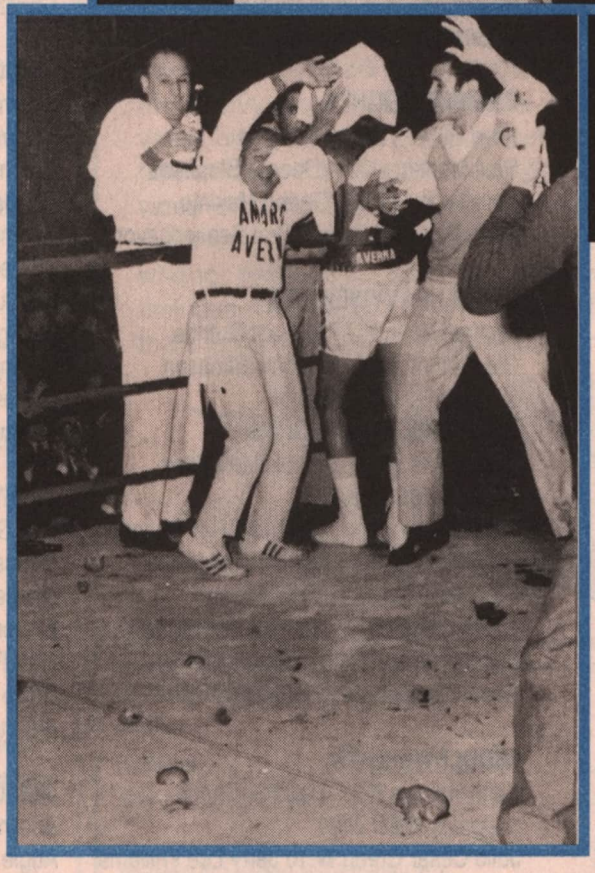
After that, Phil said, "I was always teasing Denny because Robinson beat him."

Leave it to a father to inject a harsh note of reality.

"Say," Harry reminded the boys, "you never fought the real Sugar Ray Robinson. You fought an old man."

"Yeah," conceded the brothers, "we know."





Denny felt he was ripped off when he challenged Carlos Monzon for the middleweight title in 1972 (above). The fans also felt the same way, and pelted Monzon and his cornermen with debris when the fight was controversially stopped by referee Lorenzo Fortunato in the fifth round.

Denny had bragging rights over Phil where the two other opponents they had in common were concerned, although it took him two tries in both cases. Puerto Rican contender Dulio Nunez stopped Phil on cuts at St. Nick's Arena in New York City on April 3, 1961. Two months later at the Garden, Nunez' inside work convinced two of the three judges that he'd beaten Denny in a fight that *Times* reporter Dean McGowen scored 6-3 for Moyer. But Denny handily won a return match in Portland.

Two weeks after Teddy Wright won a verdict over Phil at the Garden, the welterweight contender from Detroit split-decisioned Denny in a hastily arranged bout there. "A Moyer Finally Wins A Decision From Teddy Wright," headlined the *Times* after the exciting rubber match on July 7, 1962, which had the Garden crowd in an uproar throughout. It was unanimous for Moyer.

(Continued on page 61)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Chris Byrd KO 2 John Sargent
Henry Akinwande KO 9 Najee Shaheed
Wladimir Klitschko KO 8 Everett Martin
Alexander Zolkin KO 4 Willie Williams
Jerry Ballard KO 2 Garing Lane
Przemyslaw Saleta KO 10 Asmir Vojnovic
Tony Halme W 12 Iran Barkley
Boris Powell KO 6 Art Pendergrass
Jovo Pudar KO 7 Marcellus Brown
Cedric Boswell KO 2 Michael Middleton
Sean Carrigan KO 2 Jimmy Garrett
Ross Puritty W 8 Louis Monaco
Butterbean W 4 Ray Bedwell

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Virgil Hill W 10 Glen Thomas
Saul Montana KO 1 George Stephens
Vassiliy Jirov KO 5 Onebo Maxime
Terry Ray Tech. Win 9 Rod Bensonhavor

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Michael Nunn KO 7 William Guthrie
Ole Klemetsen W 8 Angelo Simpson

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Sven Ottke W 12 Gabriel Hernandez
(Retains IBF Title)
Charles Brewer KO 2 Carlton Ray Holland
Omar Sheika KO 3 Demetrius Jenkins
Glen Johnson W 12 Troy Watson
David Starie KO 1 Zaourbek Hetagourov
Fighting Nordin W 12 Norbert Nieroba
Adrian Dodson W 10 Orlando Wiet

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Keith Holmes KO 7 Hassine Cherifi
(Regains WBC Title)
Julio Cesar Green W 10 Jerry Lee Williams
Manny Sobral W 10 James McCray
Julio Garcia W 10 Leroy Owens

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Francisco Castillejo KO 4 Humberto Aranda
(Retains WBC Title)
Harry Simon KO 3 Kevin Lueshing
Wilfredo Rivera W 10 Angel Hernandez
Kofi Jantuah KO 5 Daniel Santos
Fitz Vanderpool KO 11 Stephan Johnson
Ross Thompson KO 5 Antonio Reese
Hugo Pineda W 10 Juventino Barrera
Alfred Ankamah KO 7 Tito Mendoza
Danny Perez KO 2 Juan Soberanes
Davide Ciarlante W 8 Mustafa Ilir
Michael Covington KO 6 Ricky Nelson

WELTERWEIGHTS
Ahmed Katejew KO 3 Peter Malinga
Giovanni Parisi W 8 Janin Martinez
Golden Johnson KO 3 Eduardo Martinez
Andrei Pestriaev W 8 Monji Abdou
Michael Covington W 10 Larry Marks
Alessandro Duran W 12 Maxim Nesterenko
Justin Rowsell KO 4 Sak Ubon
Greg Haugen W 10 Grover Wiley
Julian Wheeler KO 1 Michael Moss
Louie Leija W 6 Lamont Johnson
David Diaz KO 4 Rafael Salas
Cory Spinks W 6 Ted Worth
Christy Martin KO 1 Jovett Jackson

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Reggie Green
(Retains WBA Title)
Antonio Diaz W 12 Marlon Thomas
Randall Bailey KO 1 Bolillo Gonzalez
Thomas Damgaard KO 2 Jimmy Joe Zelke
Ahmed Santos W 10 Patrick Thorns
Hiroyuki Sakamoto KO 2 Teofilo Tunacao
George Scott KO 8 J.T. Kelly
Cosme Rivera W 12 Hector Quiroz
Moses James KO 7 Simon Gonzalez
Hector Camacho Jr. KO 1 Roberto Nunez

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Billy Schwer KO 8 Sandro Casamonica
Carlos Gerena KO 6 Antonio Salas
Djamel Lifa W 10 Bruno Wartelle
Edison DoNacimiento KO 9 Luis Montes
Rick Roberts W 10 Takayuki Yoshioka
Steve Forbes W 10 Ernesto Martinez
Alberto Sicurella W 8 Cesar Domine

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Acelino Freitas KO 8 Juan Macia
Augie Sanchez KO 7 Jorge Paez
Carlos Hernandez KO 5 Javier Lucas
Tonto Tontchev W 12 Rakhim Mingaleev

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Cesar Soto W 12 Luisito Espinosa
(Wins WBC Title)
Juan Manuel Marquez KO 2
Wilfredo Vargas
Pastor Maurin W 10
Esteban DeJesus Morales

Kevin Kelley W 10 Hector Velazquez
Steve Robinson W 12 Manuel Calvo
Jesus Salud W 10 Amador Vazquez
Guty Espadas KO 2 Oscar Maldonado
Aristead Clayton W 10 Jose Garcia
Lewis Wood D 12 Frankie Archuleta
Radford Beasley KO 2 Carlos Gomez
Kozo Ishii W 10 Tony Bernales
Takeo Imaoka KO 8 Noel Hammer Pan

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Erik Morales KO 9 Juan Carlos Ramirez
(Retains WBC Title)
Nestor Garza KO 8 Carlos Barreto
(Retains WBA Title)
Danny Romero W 10 David Vazquez
Drew Docherty W 12 Patrick Mullings
Oscar Larios KO 10 Miguel Escamilla

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Johnny Tapia KO 1 Alberto Martinez
(Non-Title Bout)
Johnny Bredahl KO 6 Kamel Guerfi
Steve Dotse D 10 Jorge Otero
Rafael Marquez KO 1 Angel Almena
Jesper Jensen W 8 Silvio Luzon
Geraldo Martinez W 8 Marcos Badillo

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Mark Johnson W 12 Ratanachai Vorapin
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Mauricio Pastrana W 12 Edicson Torres
Eric Morel W 10 Jose Sosa
Michael Carbajal W 10 Oscar Andrade

FLYWEIGHTS

Manny Pacquiao KO 4 Gabriel Mira
(Retains WBC Title)
Jose Lopez Bueno KO 8
Ruben Sanchez-Leon
Jose Bonilla KO 2 Ilido Diaz
David Guerault W 12 Jason Booth
Melvin Magramo KO 10 Katsuhiro Akita
Gerson Guerrero KO 8 Everardo Morales

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Jorge Arce KO 6 Salvatore Fanni
Hiroshi Matsumoto W 10
Songkram Porpaoin
Lito Laroa W 12 Flash Murillo

STRAWWEIGHTS

Wandee Chor Chareon KO 12
Wolf Tokimitsu
Oswaldo Guerrero W 12 Edgar Cardenas
Satoru Abe KO 1 Anthony Sales

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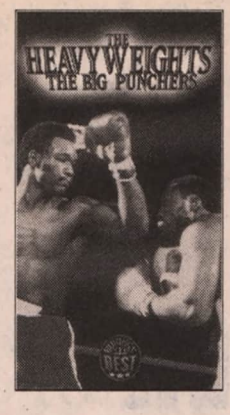

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

It's time to give the devil his due. Manfredy said all along that he was the one who *really* beat Arturo Gatti, that he did it before Ivan Robinson and that he did it better. And after Manfredy thoroughly dissected Robinson in Indio, California, in April, arguably winning every one of their 10 action-packed rounds, it was nearly impossible to refute "El Diablo's" argument.

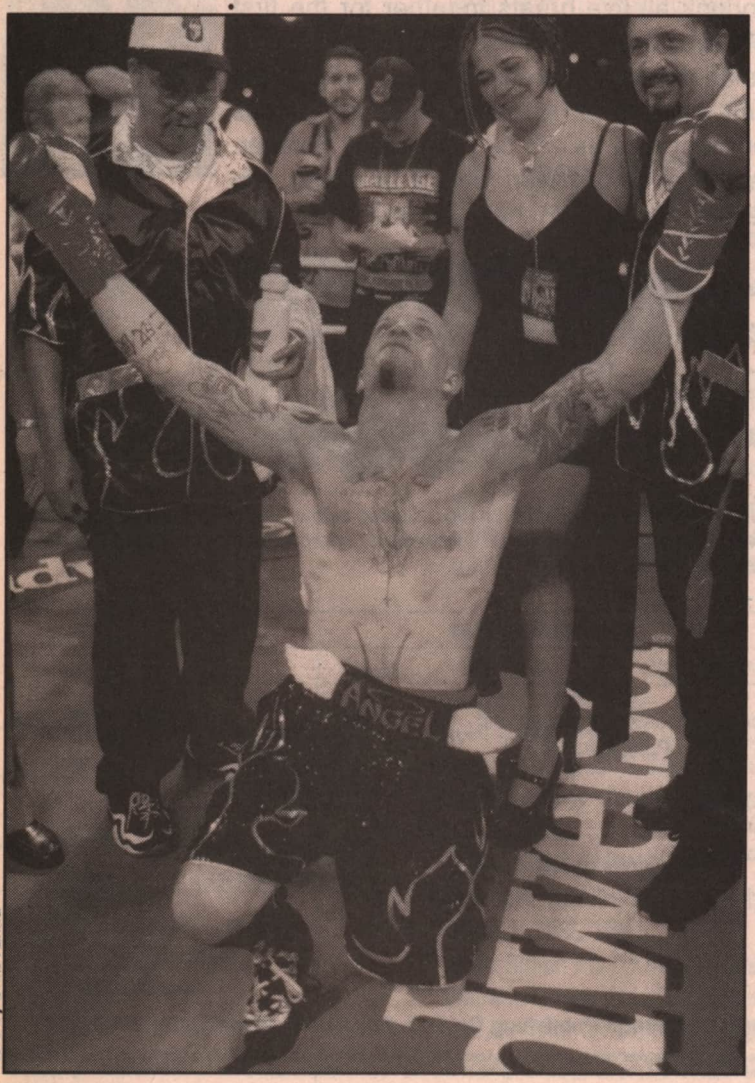


Photo by Chris Farina

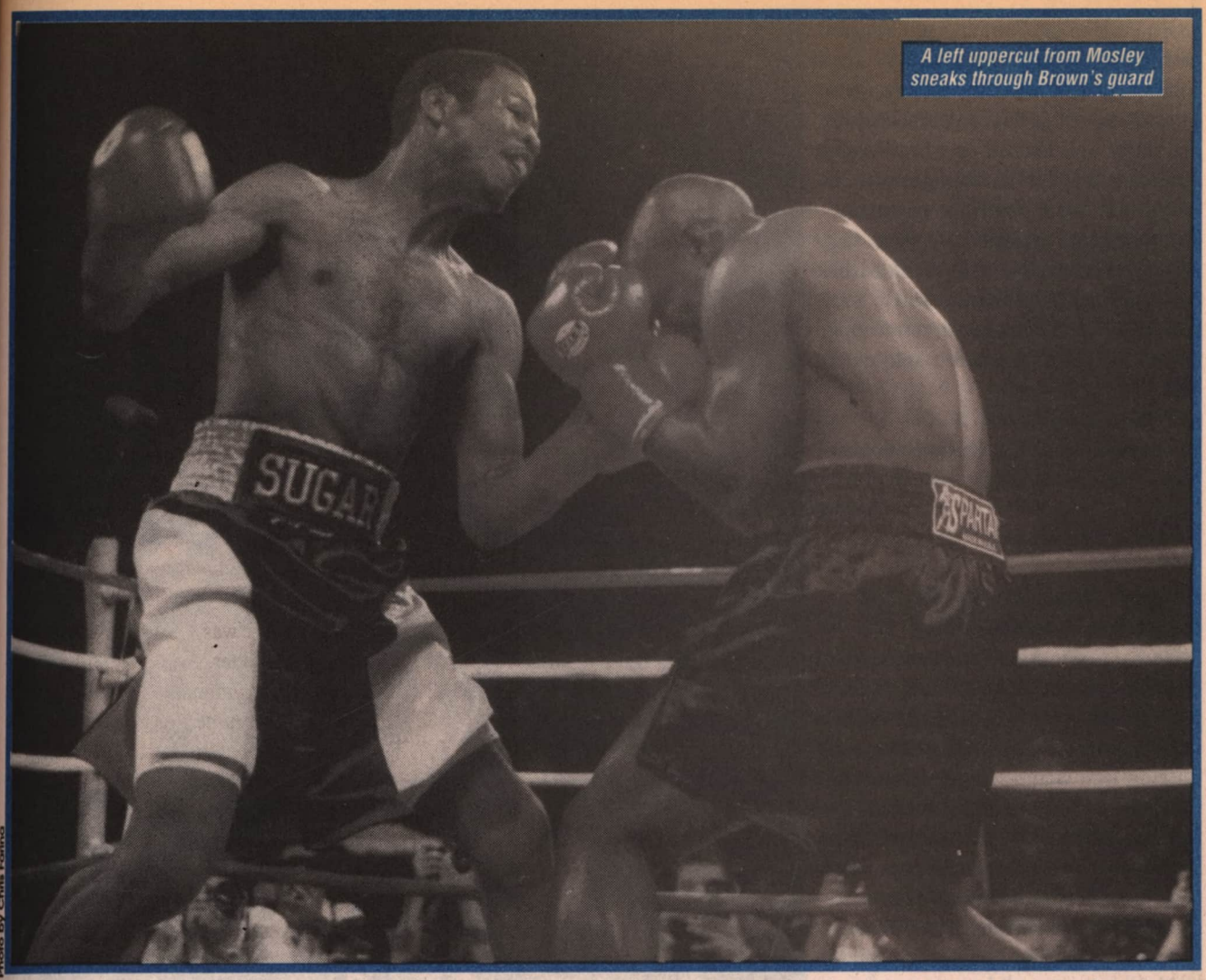
True, Manfredy had beaten Gatti more easily than "Mighty Ivan," who twice squeaked by boxing's ugliest pretty boy via narrow decisions. But in this head-to-head matchup, it was expected that Robinson's speed would negate Manfredy's edge in power, thereby making the fight a genuine tossup.

But what the oddsmakers perceived to be a pick-'em quickly became a pick-'em apart, as Manfredy turned Robinson into devil's food with rib-bending bodyshots and astonishingly accurate power punches. It took all of Robinson's Philadelphia toughness to stay on his feet, especially on the half-a-dozen or so occasions when he seemed out on them, and when it was all over, Manfredy had lost just two rounds total on all three judges' scorecards.

Manfredy took the most crushing defeat of his career, a questionable stoppage loss to Floyd Mayweather last December, and used it as motivation to dominate Robinson. After the Mayweather fight, a lot of people felt sympathy for the devil; now, you just have to respect him.

• • • •

Angel Manfredy



A left uppercut from Mosley sneaks through Brown's guard

Photo by Chris Farina

Shane Mosley KO 8 John Brown

Indio, California: Short—just 5'3"—and short-armed, Brown understands before the opening bell ever rings that he's not going to win on style points. His job is to get inside on taller, longer-limbed opponents by any means necessary, and if that includes a few moves borrowed from the World Wrestling Federation, well, so be it.

And when the guy in the other corner is sweet-swinging IBF lightweight champion Shane Mosley, the imperative for "The Eastern Beast" is to apply even more bearhugs than usual. The idea was to rough Mosley up, push him around, grab his arms ... anything to break his rhythm and frustrate him. Maybe, just maybe, the 10-1 favorite would become so frustrated that he'd do something stupid.

"I don't think he was used to fighting a fight like that, but good fighters rise to the challenge, and Mosley is a good fighter," Brown, 19-6 (10), said of his eighth-round TKO loss in the outdoor bout at Fantasy Springs Casino. "I'm a good fighter, too. I did what I do best, which is to get in and get down. I mess a lot of fighters up that way."

Mosley, 32-0 (30), knew what was coming. He had studied tapes of Brown's close-call loss to Angel Manfredy and domination of the well-faded Gabriel Ruelas. But knowing that Brown is a miniature "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and liking it are two different things.

"That was definitely a different kind of fight," Mosley, 135, Pomona, California, said of his wearisome efforts to extricate himself from Brown's embrace. "John Brown has a tendency to make people look bad. He was trying to make me look real bad, but then I started to bend my knees and the shots started to land."

One such shot, a leap-in left hook, hurt Brown, 30, and precipitated a barrage along the ropes that prompted referee Pat Russell (USA), acting on the advice of ringside physician Paul Wallace, to stop the fight at the end of the eighth round.

Give Mosley—who was making something of a homecoming after six bouts in East Coast locales—credit for making adjustments and not losing his composure. One of the best pound-for-pound fighters in the world, Mosley, 27, moves better and punches faster and harder than the people he's accustomed to beating up, most of whom are unable or unwilling to press him. Give him a bit of space, and Mosley can tap out combinations with a better beat than a medley of the Rolling Stones' greatest hits. Brown, giving away six inches in height and nine inches in reach, was determined not to be stranded on the end of Sugar Shane's percussion section.

With his father-trainer, Jack Mosley, offering advice between rounds, Mosley, over time, began timing Brown's rushes with power-packed single shots, hoping to hurt him on the way in. It might not be classic strategy, but, hey, the fight was in California,

so the Code of the West applied. A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do.

Brown, 134½, Atlantic City, New Jersey, was well behind on the scorecards and fairly well lumped up when Russell gave him the rest of the night off. He issued the usual postfight complaints about a perhaps premature stoppage, suggesting that Mosley, who recorded his eighth defense, might have begun to wear down a bit later. But, like the surrounding desert, his objections didn't hold much water.

Television: HBO

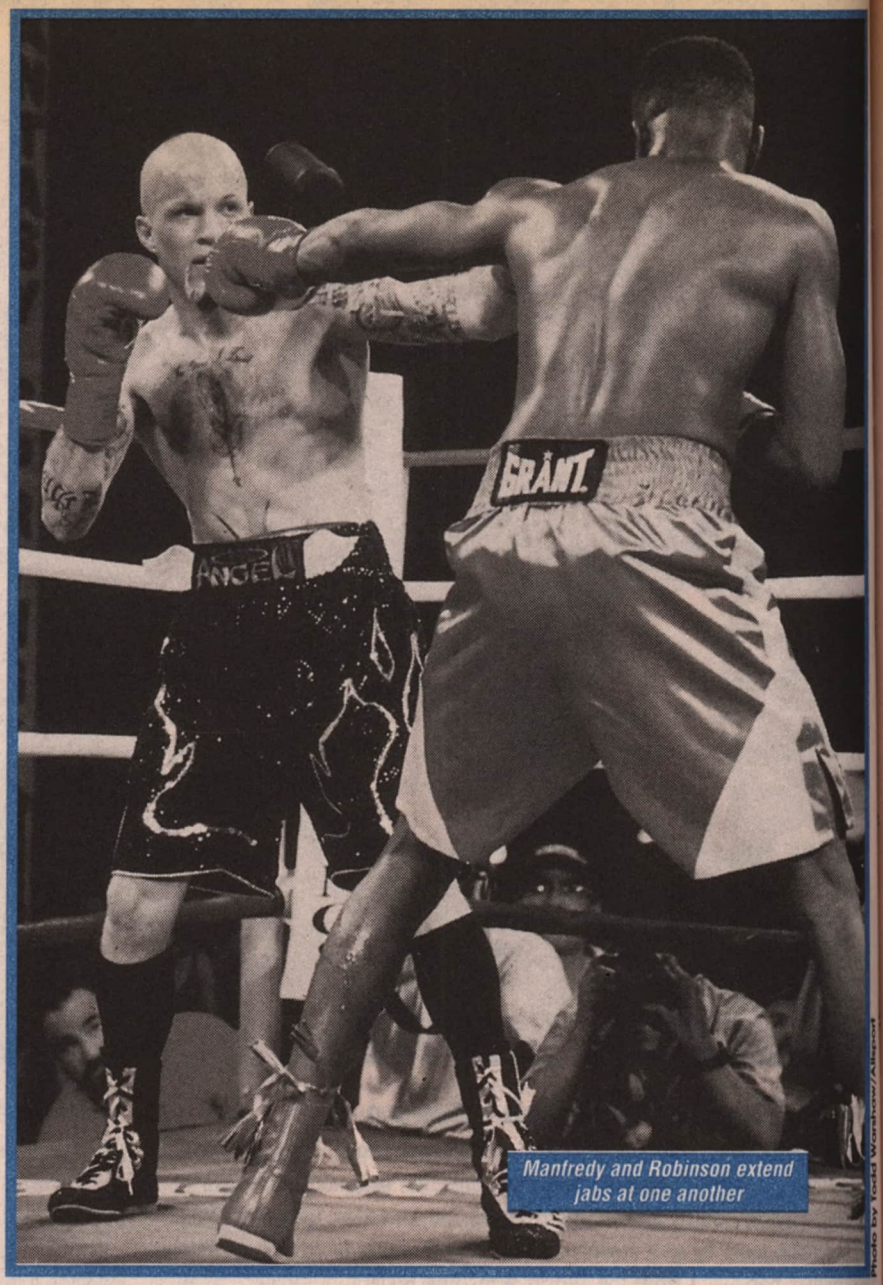
Promoters: Cedric Kushner Promotions, Main Events

(4-17-99)

Bernard Fernandez

Angel Manfredy W 10 Ivan Robinson

Indio, California: For someone who wasn't even there, Arturo Gatti figured prominently in the prebout hype leading up to this attractive matchup of Gatti-conquering lightweight contenders. Manfredy, who stopped Gatti on cuts on January 17, 1998, had disparaged Robinson's two subsequent rock-'em, sock-'em decision victories over Gatti, claiming that the Philadelphian had merely "cleaned up on the crumbs" of Gatti he had left.



Manfredy and Robinson extend jabs at one another

Photo by Todd Warshaw/Allsport

Kery Davis, director of programming for Time Warner Sports, acknowledged the brewing feud, saying two days before the fight at Fantasy Springs Casino that Manfredy and Robinson were going to settle the question of "who beat up Gatti worse." Judging by Manfredy's bravura performance here, he might have reduced Robinson to crumbs for some future opponent to clean up on. The human graffiti exhibit from East Chicago, Indiana, tattooed Robinson, if you'll pardon the expression, with ripping bodyshots from both wings in pitching a virtual shutout on the scorecards. Judge Fritz Werner (USA) gave Manfredy every round and a 100-90 margin of victory, while cohorts Lou Filippo (USA) and Marty Denkin (USA) saw it only slightly closer at 99-91, respectively.

"It was just Angel Manfredy's night," said Robinson, 27-3 (10), who, had he won, would have been in line for a title shot at either IBF champion Shane Mosley or WBC champ Stevie Johnston. "Whatever he worked on in the gym, whatever his trainers told him to do, he came out and he executed it."

Well, not exactly. Manfredy, 27-3-1 (21), claims to be a seat-of-his-pants kind of guy, going into every fight with a rough idea of what might happen, but capable of adjusting to fit the situation.

"That's how I fight," Manfredy said of his somewhat impromptu targeting of Robinson's ribcage. "Whatever's open, I go for it. I go for openings, and I saw a lot of openings to the body. I was extremely faster than him. I was extremely stronger than him. The leverage on my shots, and my speed, was unreal. I got leverage on all my shots."

Faster? According to punch statistics furnished by CompuBox, Robinson actually let fly more often than Manfredy, 933 to 762, but he landed less frequently, 255 to 360, and with less pop. Manfredy got the better of most exchanges, and by the middle rounds, his body attack had taken much of the spring out of Robinson's legs.

It was the sort of "Hello, world, I'm still here" effort needed by Manfredy, whose rising star had lost some of its luster when he was stopped in two rounds by WBC super featherweight champion Floyd Mayweather last December 19. Manfredy cried—literally—that he was deprived an opportunity to fight his way out of trouble, but he came to see the defeat as a test of his character.

"True champions are the ones that come back from a loss,"

Manfredy said. "I had a controversial loss [to Mayweather]. I still say they shouldn't have stopped the fight when they did, but that's okay. My attitude was, it's behind me, it's time to go forward with my career."

The referee was Dr. Lou Moret (USA).

Television: HBO

Promoters: Cedric Kushner Promotions, Main Events

(4-17-99)

Bernard Fernandez

Julien Lorcy KO 6 Jean-Baptiste Mendy

Paris, France: With a resolution that had clearly been lacking in his three previous challenges for the spurious WBO title, Lorcy, 134¾, France, seized control and then stopped durable WBA lightweight champion Mendy, 135, France, to assume the crown from his compatriot at the Palais des Omnisports.

Lorcy, 26, was twice held to draws by Mexican southpaw Arnulfo Castillo and beaten once by Russian Anatoly Alexandrov, setbacks that suggested he would never reach the pinnacle scaled by Mendy. But he overpowered and outshone the veteran champion to confound those who had him as the rank outsider. The aggressor from early on, he denied Mendy, 36, any foothold in the fight and, though the timing of the referee's intervention raised consternation in the Mendy camp, Lorcy was in control at the finish.

Open scoring was a side attraction to this bout, the WBA deciding in the wake of the Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield controversy to announce the scores at the end of each round, but not to name the judges. Lorcy boxed with an urgency that made clear his intention of rendering the judges' deliberations superfluous. His combination punching was sharper and had the greater impact. And he was more elusive to Mendy's blows than Mendy proved to his.

In the third, Lorcy took complete charge, delivering a hard right that propelled Mendy back into a ring post and sustaining an attack that had the beleaguered champion doubled over in pain. Somehow, Mendy, making his second defense of the title, rebounded to take the fourth, his long-undoubted courage again laid bare for an appreciative crowd to see. But the damage around his right eye, which had been inflicted initially in the second round, was now considerably worse.

Another succession of crunching right hands brought further success to Lorcy in the fifth, and in the sixth, a powerful right rocked Mendy to the core. French referee Daniel Talon reeled off a standing eight-count, and Mendy showed signs again of averting a crisis. But Lorcy, 41-1-2 (29), would not be denied, landing another right that sent Mendy crashing into the ropes and onto the canvas, forcing the referee to wave it off.

Mendy protested immediately and in a forceful manner. He lodged an official protest a week later, complaining that headbutts had opened the wound around his right eye. Mendy, 53-8-2 (30) with 1 no-contest, is likely to be given a rematch.

Promoter: AB Stars Productions

(4-10-99)

Brian Doogan

Mark Johnson W 12 Ratanachai Vorapin

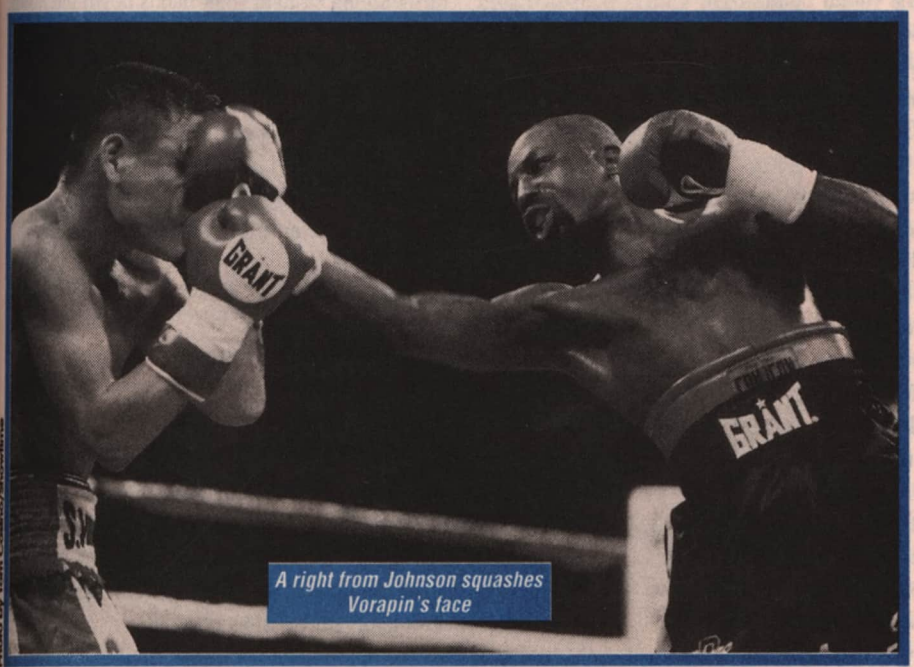
Washington, D.C.: Having abandoned the IBF flyweight title after seven defenses, "Too Sharp" Johnson moved up three pounds and captured the vacant IBF junior bantamweight crown with a 12-round unanimous decision over Vorapin. Johnson, from Washington, replaces Johnny Tapia as the champion, which points up the desperation in his predicament—Tapia wants nothing to do with Too Sharp, and there are precious few other fights in which Johnson can make big money.

The bout with Thailander Vorapin was the first world championship at the new downtown MCI Center and part of a world-title tripleheader with Keith Holmes vs. Hassine Cherifi, and Sharmba Mitchell vs. Reggie Green. Johnson showed the announced crowd of 11,437 why he is universally regarded as one of the 10 best fighters in the world today in any weight class.

Vorapin, 114, 35-4 (25), was not just some sacrificial import. He is a smart, confident boxer with solid defense and a reputation as a knockout puncher. But he barely touched Johnson, 37-1 (26).

Johnson, 115, established command immediately in the battle of dueling southpaws, sticking his rat-a-tat right jab from the opening bell, while baiting traps and sliding side to side like a matador. Vorapin appeared content to watch and probe early. When Johnson missed a combination, Vorapin smiled. When Johnson opened the second round with a flashy scoring combination, Vorapin grinned broadly again, looking delighted.

In the third, Vorapin, 27, decided to adopt the role of counterpuncher, and Johnson, also 27, happily began to gobble him up. Late in the round,

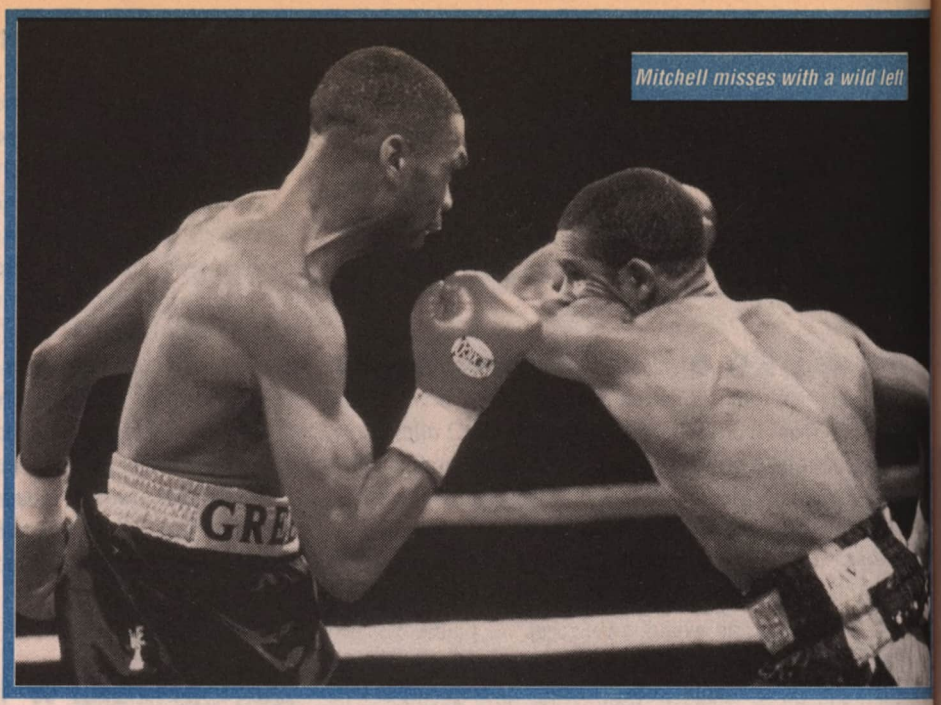


A right from Johnson squashes Vorapin's face

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Vorapin finally landed a hard left, bloodying Johnson's nose. Vorapin said a prayer in his corner before the fourth, but Johnson greeted him with a leaping left, a double right jab, and another big left. Circling mostly to his right, Johnson wobbled Vorapin with a powerful left hook, then worked him to the ropes and picked him apart.

The judges' scores were announced after the lopsided fourth and—after four more near-shutout rounds—again following the eighth round. Johnson, having been told he was comfortably ahead, completely relaxed. Even when Vorapin ripped off some nice bodyshots in the ninth, Johnson posed and played. But he made Vorapin pay in the 10th, spinning him completely around with a combination and then stalking the Thai fighter into his own corner and teeing off. The crowd loved it.


Mitchell misses with a wild left

In the 11th, Johnson had a point deducted by referee Marshall Cunningham (USA) for knocking Vorapin down with a low blow, but the fight by then was decided. Judge Valerie Dorsett (USA) scored it 118-109, Paul Herman (USA) saw it 117-110, and Paul Weitzel (USA) had it 116-110. THE RING agreed with Weitzel.

Television: Showtime
Promoter: Don King Productions
(4-24-99)
John Scheinman

Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Reggie Green

Washington, D.C.: Like the Tasmanian Devil, Mitchell was a whirlwind of hyper activity in the first round of his fight with Green. Mitchell, in his second defense of the WBA super lightweight title, came straight forward winging. An overhand right hurt Green, who slid shakily along the ropes, trying to lash out. Another Mitchell right smashed into Green, and a powerful combination of punches dropped him.

Desperately trying to hold Mitchell's arms, blood streaming from a cut over his right eye, Green looked through. Demoralized, he wobbled back to his corner at round's end.

Then the fight began.

Over the next 11 rounds, the two local boys made good, rumbling to the roar of the crowd of 11,437 in the main event of a championship tripleheader at the new MCI Center. In the end, in a bout that featured controversial round-by-round announced scoring to the crowd, Mitchell hung on to retain the crown with a majority 12-round decision win.

But the seemingly fragile Green, 140, Tuxedo, Maryland, proved himself once and for all to be world-class caliber. In his only prior outings against ranked opposition, he lost a thriller to Darryl Tyson and got blown away in two by Charles Murray.

Mitchell, 140, Takoma Park, Maryland, who easily won the title last October against Khalid Rahilou and defended once in what essentially was a tuneup against Pedro Saiz in February, expected Green to be tough. After the too-easy first, he found he had expected right.

Early in the second ground, Green, 30-3 (14), landed a little right to the body and then a big right to the head that made Mitchell's legs dance. Green dug in with a left hook, and Mitchell, 45-2 (29), wobbled again. Gamely, Mitchell ripped a hard right to the body, and the two engaged at center ring. A surprised Mitchell received a warning from referee Kenny Chevalier (USA) for spinning Green around. Amazingly, two of the three judges scored the round for Mitchell.

The fight see-sawed from there. When Mitchell, 28, went on the attack, he looked brilliant. But when he chose to circle and jab, feint and pose, Green, 30, gathered momentum. And that momentum consisted largely of thumping straight right hands down the middle that often found Mitchell's chest, stopping him in his tracks.

The sixth round was a war, and Mitchell hurt Green with a right near the end and tried to finish him. Two rounds later, Green took command. By the 11th, they were two tired fighters. Judge Paul Artisst (USA) scored it 114-114, Gustavo Padilla (Panama) had it 116-111 for Mitchell, and Ove Ovesen (Denmark) scored it 115-113 for the defending champion. THE RING agreed with Artisst. A rematch is in order.

Television: Showtime
Promoter: Don King Productions
(4-24-99)
John Scheinman

Manny Pacquiao KO 4 Gabriel Mira

Quezon City, Philippines: Wild but hard-punching Filipino phenom Pacquiao, 111¾, showed that the explosive left-hand power he used to shock Chatchai Dutchboy Gym for the WBC flyweight title last December was no fluke, as his crushing southpaw left led him to victory in his first title defense as well. The fight took place before approximately 15,000 fans at the historic

Araneta Coliseum, the site of Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier III, but this was not exactly a second coming of "The Thrilla In Manila." This was a mostly one-sided spanking, as Pacquiao registered five knockdowns of decent Mexican challenger Mira, 110½, en route to a fourth-round stoppage.

The 27-year-old Mira, who came in riding a seven-bout winning streak, made some noise when he rocked Pacquiao early in the second round, but the champion, whose age is either 20 or 22, depending on whom you believe, took it as a wake-up call and floored Mira moments later. Pacquiao was searching for the knockout in the third, and as Mira tried desperately to run from his pursuer, he fell to the canvas four times—all ruled slips by referee Richard Steele (USA). Finally, Pacquiao dropped Mira for an eight-count toward the end of the round, but the Mexican lasted until the bell.

In the fourth, Pacquiao, 26-1 (17), began landing at will with his left hand, knocking Mira, 19-8-1 (15), down three times with combinations of straight lefts, crosses, and uppercuts. Referee Steele waved it off following the third knockdown at the 2:45 mark. Afterward, Pacquiao's manager, Rod Nazario, said he intended to keep the champion busy with a non-title contest the following month.

(4-24-99)

Joe Koizumi

Manuel Medina Tech. Win 9 Victor Polo

Las Vegas, Nevada: The good news for the gutsy Medina is that he survived a two-way blood-letting with a ninth-round technical split decision over Polo to retain the IBF featherweight title at the Orleans hotel-casino. The bad news is that his immediate boxing future is on hold.

Medina, 126, Mexico, slow-starting out of the gate, took charge in the middle rounds, but the action was abbreviated after the ninth round when his right eyelid was badly cut from an accidental butt by Polo, 126, Colombia. Ringside physician Dr. Margaret Goodman told referee Joe Cortez (USA) that Medina was unable to continue, forcing officials to go to the Las Vegas judges' scorecards to render a decision. Dave Moretti and Bill Graham both had Medina up, by scores of 86-84 and 87-83, respectively. Dalby Shirley had it 86-84 for Polo. THE RING's tab was 86-84 in favor of Medina.

"Only a butt could make that kind of cut because it extended under the brow and up into the muscle," said Dr. Goodman of Medina's gash, which she predicted would keep him out for 120 days. "It was the kind of cut that could lead to an infection, and that's why Medina is going to need some time."

Polo, making his American debut as the IBF's number-one contender, also had a cut on the edge of his right eyelid. But it was Medina's wound that was far more serious and, for the Mexican, quite untimely. The three-time champion had been mentioned prominently as an opponent for Prince Naseem Hamed in the early-summer, but the healing process may prevent Medina from being available.

Medina, 28, earned $75,000 in raising his credentials to 56-10 (25), while Polo, 26, collecting $50,000, saw his record dip to 22-2-2 (20). There were no knockdowns, but the southpaw Polo made Medina's legs do a little skip from a hard right to the jaw early in the first round. Polo's herky-jerky style seemed to confuse Medina, as the challenger took the first three rounds. The champion got a point back when Cortez penalized Polo for a low blow midway through the third.

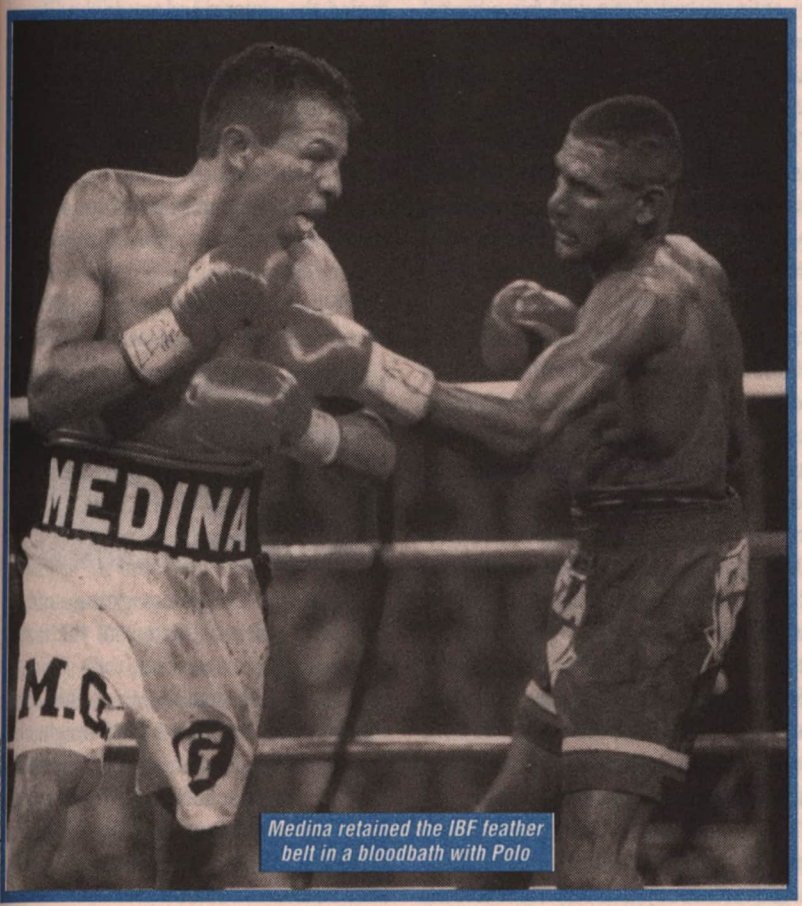


Photo by Chris Farina

Medina retained the IBF feather belt in a bloodbath with Polo

In rounds five through nine, Medina came on strong in the latter stages of each round, dominating with bodypunching. The fighters' heads collided early in the ninth round, but the determined Medina remained relentless with combinations to the head and body until the fight was halted following the stanza.

When the scoring was announced, Polo felt he "was slightly ahead, but there was no way I could have been three points behind."

Orlando Pineda, Polo's trainer and translator, was also miffed over the abbreviated finish. "First, I felt the scoring was terrible for such a close fight," Pineda said. "So did Victor. There was no warning when the referee took that point away in the third round. I felt Polo had done enough to be ahead when the butt forced going to the scorecards."

Both fighters expressed an interest in a rematch, especially Polo.

Television: USSB

Promoter: Tony Trudnich's Las Vegas Sports Promotions

(4-16-99)

Jack Welsh ■

Tony Ayala Jr.

(Continued from page 37)

ety. Two years ago I realized that I wasn't in such bad shape as I thought I'd be. I realized that at 36 I was working out harder than I did when I was 19. George Foreman had already made a path for the senior circuit to take place. George Foreman was fighting guys half his age and was beating them, and eventually, he won a title at age 45. It sort of planted an idea that maybe, just maybe, it was possible that I could make a comeback. And maybe, just maybe, make history. If it's possible, I'm gonna try to do this thing. If not, I'll just be another one who gave it a shot and didn't make it."

Outside of his future opponents, the person most responsible for deciding whether or not Ayala has what it takes to make a successful ring comeback will be his father, Tony Sr. The elder Ayala, an ex-Marine with 44 years of experience working with fighters, trained three of his sons, Mike, Sammy, and Tony Jr. Sadly, none of them lived up to their potential, each falling victim to a hedonistic or criminal lifestyle before reaching the top of their profession. Although he realizes the magnitude of what his namesake is trying to accomplish, the family patriarch doesn't think he'll have to wait until Tony Jr.'s first comeback fight to know whether or not he still has what it takes to be a champion.

"I would definitely know in the gym whether he's ready to fight or if he should turn around and say sayonara, that's it," said Tony Sr.

But even Tony Sr. refuses to guess which weight division his 5'8" son will fight in. Getting back down to the 154-pound junior middleweight limit certainly seems a stretch. When asked how much he weighed at the moment, Ayala looked around, laughed, and patted his stomach, which bulged slightly over the beltline of his jeans.

"I just ate enchiladas," he said. "Right now, I'm about 185. Putting on weight, for me, has always been very easy. Last night, my mom made some great enchiladas and some good guacamole, and I partook of my share. When I get in the ring, when I get in the gym, I'll start to work and the diet will happen. If my best is at 154, then I'll fight at 154. If my best is 175, I'll fight at 175. If my best is at 190, I'll fight at 190."

"Tony, fortunately, is the type of fighter that every trainer dreams of," interjected the senior Ayala, who planned to begin putting Tony Jr. through his paces at Philadelphia's Front Street Gym a day or so after the press conference. "He might be 20, 25 pounds overweight right now, but I've never had a problem with him as far as training is concerned. He would always run that extra mile, do that extra couple of rounds, and his weight was never a problem. I never had a problem with him making his weight. It is up to me to find out where he's at and get him ready to fight. I don't expect him to fight his first couple of fights at 154."

A lot of people who recall when Ayala was running roughshod over the junior middleweight division wonder if the primeval intensity will still be there when an older and allegedly wiser Ayala climbs back into the ring. After all, there's a strong possibility that the inner rage that fueled his savage ring performances has been extinguished along with his personal demons. Ayala, however, feels that he can successfully separate those two aspects of his character.

"Just because you are a fighter, it doesn't necessarily mean you're a violent person outside of the ring," Ayala insisted. "My problems outside of the ring had to do with being out of control and not having the skills to deal with certain issues. I've gained those skills and I've learned how to deal with those issues. A lot of the issues have been resolved. But that doesn't mean I'm going to be a real nice guy and help my opponents up. I'm gonna try to knock his head off. Boxing is the only sport where the intent is to hurt your opponent. I walk in the ring knowing that. I recognize that what my opponent wants to do to me is knock me unconscious. So I have to get him first. It's very simple."

But even though Ayala contends that he's a vastly different man these days, it would be a mistake to think 16 years behind bars has turned him into a wimp.

"I'm straight up, man. And that hasn't changed," said Ayala. "If I've got a problem with somebody, I'll step right to their face. Let's deal with this one way or another. I'm not a coward. I don't laugh behind somebody else's back. If I've got something to say to you, I'm gonna say it. I didn't change from before I was in prison, I didn't change while I was in prison, it is gonna change now. Am I looking for trouble? I'm not looking for trouble. But I'm a punk either."

Ayala is no fool; he realizes that the task he is about to embark upon is far from a sure thing. Even Foreman hadn't been away from the game as long, so you can't help but wonder how much wishful thinking is involved.

"It's unprecedented, it's rare, it's insane!" agreed Ayala. "All I know is that's what I'm gonna do. I don't worry about odds. You know, when I was young, growing up, they always said I was too fat, too short, too slow, too dumb—to do anything. They said I would *never* be able to represent the United States in the Olympics. Do you know what? When I was an amateur, I beat every middleweight in the country. They couldn't deny me that spot. Of course, President Carter boycotted the Olympic Games, and I didn't go."

Ayala was just a teenager when he fooled the experts and made the Olympic team. Today, his toughest ring opponent will undoubtedly be Father Time. His first test is tentatively set for July in his hometown of San Antonio. And if things don't turn out the way Ayala and his supporters hope, the disappointment should be relatively easy to take compared to what he's already endured.

"When you've been to the joint, man, everything else is pretty easy." ■

Who's Hot, Who's Not

(Continued from page 42)

Sometimes, fighters going cold can attribute their misfortune to the inverse relationship between a boxer's stock and his weight. Sure, putting on weight *can* be a good thing; the higher your weight class, the higher the division's profile, generally. But in the case of guys like Freddie Norwood and Mauricio Pastrana, losing the battle of the bulge also led to major stall-outs.

Norwood ate himself out of the WBA featherweight title and off the short list of candidates to fight Hamed when he weighed in for a September '98 title defense in Japan against Koji Matsumoto nearly two pounds over the featherweight limit. That's pretty close when you consider "Li'l Hagler" was at the *lightweight* limit of 135 the day before. Norwood was scheduled for another shot at the WBA title as we went to press, and this time, he'd better stay in shape if he hopes to make a serious run at The Prince.

Pastrana seemed to be on his way to great things when he beat Michael Carbajal for the IBF junior flyweight title in '97, and the Colombian may have been in line for a fight with Saman Sorjaturong or Ricardo Lopez had he been able to stay around a little longer. But last October, Pastrana moved up to flyweight, immediately beating former WBA champion Jose Bonilla. And before he could establish himself further at 112, Pastrana fought rather ineffectively this April at 115, barely decisioning journeyman Edicson Torres for some meaningless alphabet title in a bout that saw Pastrana floored for the first time in his career. The boxing fans like to know what division a fighter is campaigning in, and until Pastrana gets his weight under control, even the most hardcore of fans won't find it worth their while to put in the effort necessary to follow his career.

But all of the above reasons—ducking top fighters, developing a boring style, fighting infrequently, and struggling with weight—don't explain why Evander Holyfield is the coldest non-loser in boxing. Holyfield is a special case, a man who went from the ultimate hero in '96 and '97 to an ice cold hypocrite by '99, for entirely unique reasons. Technically, he did not lose his heavyweight unification fight with Lennox Lewis, but the way Holyfield responded to the gift draw he was given by the judges all but demolished the respect he had earned from the fans in his 15-year career. Had Holyfield admitted he'd been beaten by the better man that night, he would still be admired in most quarters. But instead, Holyfield, whose acceptance was already slipping because of his philandering tendencies, sunk right along with promoter King to depths that would have seemed impossible a couple of years earlier.

Of course, all it takes is one fight for the pendulum to swing in the other direction for any fighter. Look at WBA welterweight champ James Page, who seemed in line for a potential unification bout with Trinidad following his spectacular win over Jose Luis Lopez, and was granted the top spot on the undercard of Holyfield-Lewis. He was unimpressive outpointing Sam Garr in that prime opportunity, and immediately the buzz around Page faded. Maybe he can get it back in his next fight. Maybe Holyfield will knock out Lewis in the rematch and regain all the adulation he lost. Maybe Hamed will put everything on the line against Floyd Mayweather and win, and the two fighters will switch places instantly.

Determining what will make a boxer hot or cold is not an exact science and it can't be spelled out in any mathematical formula. The only simple advice a fighter can heed is this: Give the fans what they want, and they'll give right back to you. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 18)

skills have improved tremendously in the time I've worked with him.

"In my mind, he has a lot of potential to become a champion. He reminds me a little of myself and he reminds me a little bit of Oscar De La Hoya. Stevie's more of a boxer first, but he's added a little strength to his game. He's the kind of guy who can wear you down or knock you down. He has the skill to do both."

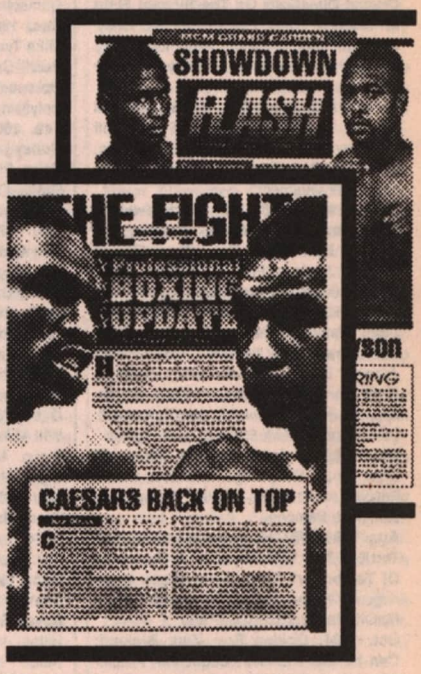
Forbes, 22, wears an interesting moniker across the waistband in the back of his boxing trunks: "Two Pounds." It is a nickname that originates from his youth, a youth he almost lost because he was born two months premature. He weighed exactly two pounds four ounces at birth. Upon his arrival home, his heart stopped beating, and he was immediately rushed back to the hospital.

"My mother would always tell me I was lucky," Forbes said. "My family always used to tell me I was so small they could put me inside of a shoebox or hold me in the palm of their hands. I always felt my grandmother was extra protective of me. Even now, she still wants to know what's going on."

Growing up in Portland, Oregon,

(Continued on page 60)

Worldwide guide to pro boxing



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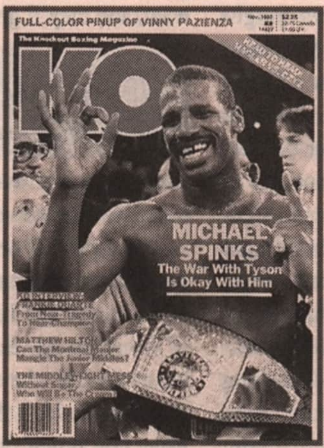

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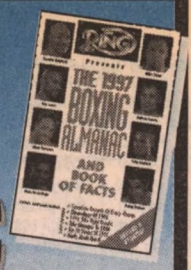

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Publisher's Weekly

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New Faces

(Continued from page 57)

Forbes got into boxing because he was always fighting. He was on the smallish side for his age, yet tried to be everyone's bodyguard. If there was a problem, someone would retrieve Forbes, and the little grade-schooler would try to settle the situation with his fists.

Something caught Forbes' eye one day when he was walking through a convenience store with his grandmother. He was 10 years old, and he saw a copy of THE RING with a well-muscled man on the cover, under the title, "Fighter Of The Year." Forbes was taken by the picture of Evander Holyfield, then the WBA and IBF cruiserweight champion. He envisioned himself as Holyfield, holding aloft a title belt. The only problem was the person holding his hand would not permit it.

"At first, my grandmother was skeptical, but after a while, she found out I kind of liked boxing and it kept me out of trouble," Forbes said. "There were gangs just starting up and guys selling drugs. My grandmother lived across the street from a nightclub. There was always some kind of excitement going on. I grew up tough. I saw a lot of things. I found you can easily get caught up in the wrong stuff."

He feared his grandmother, though. She was the one who kept him straight. Forbes was always told he could do anything he wanted, except box. Karate was okay, because full contact was not involved. But boxing was different, because Forbes tried to be too tough for his size, and his grandmother feared he could get seriously hurt. Not until amateur coach Don Davies, who was working closely with Forbes and is partially responsible for his sound fundamentals, appealed directly to Forbes' grandmother and told her Stevie could actually be good, did she finally give her consent.

Forbes started to compete in amateur competitions when he was 13 years old and won regional Golden Gloves and national invitation tournaments. But he always felt he was missing something. "I don't know where my confidence was," Forbes recalled. "I was able to beat the guys in my neighborhood, but I didn't know where I stood on a larger level."

When he was 15, he started to take boxing more seriously and won a bronze medal as a lightweight at the United States Junior Nationals, which was won by future Olympian David Diaz. After that, Forbes felt he could be a good fighter, if he worked at it. Portland, however, was not exactly a boxing hotbed, he found out. He was also entering his mid-teens, and his mind started to wander toward other pursuits, like girls and hanging out with friends, so he left boxing at the age of 15. Two years later, he decided to move in with his mother, Phyllis, in Tacoma, Washington, and picked up boxing again.

The turning point for Forbes came when he turned 19. He decided to move to Las Vegas on his own. In Vegas, he met noted boxing referee Richard Steele, who helped connect him to a few people in the business while Forbes supported himself working as a clerk at a local convenience store.

Forbes, though, entered the world of professional boxing through the back door. He was trying to get his career started, and was given promises from several people, only to have those promises fall through. It was frustrating.

"I found there are a lot of people that tell you one thing, and something totally different comes out," Forbes said. "You think of Las Vegas, you think a lot of guys would look out for you. A lot of people gave me the b.s., but I just stayed in the gym because I knew my opportunity would come. I knew I had to stay busy and show my boxing skills."

Forbes had been fighting on local club cards, when Tony Trudnich, a promoter and matchmaker for Las Vegas Sports Promotions, signed him to a promotional agreement in October of 1998. Under LVSP, Forbes has had four bouts and just began fighting 10-round bouts early this year.

"Steve's a talented kid, but he's not a big puncher," said two-division former champion Roger Mayweather, who worked in Forbes' corner in his first three pro fights. "He has to work a little more on his power. He can sit on his punches better. He does have a good work ethic, and I believe he wants to be a champion."

That's a story his grandmother already knows. ■

Keith Holmes

(Continued from page 27)

Goodman agrees unifying the belts is problematic.

"You get hit with triple the amount of obligations," he said. "You could be fighting, theoretically, two, three, or four mandatories in a row."

So Holmes' future, for now, is open, and he's just enjoying life. But training will begin again soon. Holmes considers himself "at the top of my game," and after 10 years as a pro, he truly might be reaching his peak.

"His whole job is boxing," claimed Jacobs. "His nine-to-five is boxing."

And any middleweight in the world will have to work overtime to beat him. ■

John Scheinman is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C., and a frequent contributor to this magazine.

Denny & Phil Moyer

(Continued from page 47)

Stopped twice by hard-banging middleweight contender Florentino Fernandez, Phil retired with a 26-8-1 (9) record after Terry Downes worsened his chronically damaged eye in their November 13, 1962, bout in London, won by the ex-middleweight champion via ninth-round TKO.

"It was not worth not being able to see anymore," said Phil. "I had to have an operation for a detached retina. That's a good warning to get out of boxing."

By then, the family had its world champion. But whether the ring had its first junior middleweight champion when Denny beat Joey Giambra on October 20, 1962, depends on whether you believe the WBA, which recognized Moyer, or the European Boxing Union and New York State Athletic Commission, which said Griffith became the inaugural 154-pound champ by beating Wright unanimously three days earlier in Vienna, Austria.

Garden matchmaker Teddy Brenner had pushed for an intermediate weight class between the 160 and 147 pound divisions a year earlier, but when it finally happened, the initial reaction was a yawn. Neither version of the new title was immediately embraced by the boxing public. Not even by Griffith, who had no interest in being recognized as anything but the undisputed welterweight champion of the world.

Even in Moyer's hometown, not enough fans paid their way into Portland Memorial Coliseum to watch Denny unanimously outpoint Giambra to enable the promoter to cover the fighters' guaranteed purses. But with the decision came the WBA version of the 154-pound title, although THE RING's Hawaiian correspondent, Ted Yamachika, described it as the "now defunct junior middleweight title" when Moyer decisioned Stan Harrington in a 15-round fight on February 18, 1963, which set a new indoor gate record in the latter's home base of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Two months later, the title was functional enough again for Ralph Dupas to claim it based on the votes of two of the three officials in his match with Moyer in New Orleans, Dupas' hometown.

While Phil drove a beer truck around western Oregon until his back made that too uncomfortable, Denny's fists took him all over the world until 1975.

"When we first turned pro, we fought in places like Montana and Seattle and what-not," he recalled. "I got used to going places to fight pretty quick. I liked it at first, and then I didn't like to be away from home. It seems like any big city you go to, it's like another one. Like another Portland, maybe bigger."

In his career, Moyer fought 15 men who either were then, had been, or would become recognized as world champions. The boxer who'd been so overawed in his first championship fight was anything but that in his last one, even though the belt-holder in the other corner on March 4, 1972, was considered by many to be the best middleweight ruler since Robinson. Carlos Monzon had not lost since 1964, and had knocked out all six of his opponents since belting out Nino Benvenuti for the title in 1970.

Harry Moyer accompanied Denny to Rome for the fight, and recalled that his son's manager, Sid Flaherty, laughed when Harry told him, "Geez, we're gonna win this. Denny's in shape."

(Continued on page 62)

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Denny & Phil Moyer

(Continued from page 61)

"I don't know how they're gonna do it," Flaherty told Harry, "but we're not gonna win."

For four rounds, Denny skillfully outboxed Monzon and clearly held the upper hand. In the fifth, the champion pushed him down. Moyer got up, but Lorenzo Fortunato—Monzon's hand-picked referee—stopped the fight as they were exchanging punches and declared the Argentinian the winner. The odd stoppage provoked many in the audience of 12,000 at the Palazzo dello Sport to pelt Fortunato and Monzon with oranges.

"He's supposed to be a champ?" said Moyer derisively afterward. "He don't fight like a champ. There's nothing clever about him. I'm disgusted, but after 125 fights, you don't cry."

In 1975, Moyer, 98-36-4 (25) with 1 no-decision, packed it in to become a house builder in his native state. Now 59 and retired, he has spent the last four years constructing his dream house within view of the Pacific Ocean in Ocean Springs, Washington.

"I can say with all honesty that the 17 years of boxing were the best 17 years of my life," he said.

Down in Portland, that sentiment is shared by brother Phil.

"I'd do it again and again and again," he said about his own ring career. "It was a very fun time for me."

Now that only the finishing touches remain on the dwelling he has built from the ground up, Denny is thinking about what to do next.

"What I'd like to do when I finish this house," he said, "I'd like to build another house. I won't build it so big, though."

The timing couldn't be better, because there's somebody who may soon be in the housing market in his neighborhood.

"I got a place up there," said Phil, "and I want to start building a house and relax. I don't know a lot about building a house, but I got Denny."

Pete Ehrmann, a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, is a regular contributor to this magazine.

BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

By now I am sure that someone somewhere has actually gotten over the Holyfield-Lewis decision—nobody I know, but there just has to be somebody somewhere. While pondering the whole debacle, I got to thinking about all those other fights that have become legends through the years for the way they were unfairly finished, and whether the memorabilia from those fights is of any extra value because of the notorious nature of the fight. I believe there is a premium on those collectibles.

But should that be a surprise? We collectors tend to go for memorabilia of famous fights and famous fighters. When a journeyman vs. journeyman fight ends in a robbery, it never really shows up on anybody's radar screen anyway. But if a known fighter is robbed while fighting a known fighter, a "famous" fight is born—and we start looking for the program, the ticket, a photo, etc. Sound silly? Sue us; we collect. It can't be worse than collecting some rare but ugly double-printed stamp, now can it?

Luckily (and unluckily), there's lots of fights to choose from. Let's start with an old fight that was decided by the crowd: There are vintage newspapers, prints, and even song sheets on the great bare knuckle fight between John C. Heenan and Tom Sayers on April 17, 1860. In the 37th round of that fight, the American champion, Heenan, had the English champion's neck across the ropes and had, by most accounts, otherwise beaten up on old Sayers. Just then, the crowd cut the ropes and rushed the ring. The referee left, and though the participants tried to go on, the fight was largely over at that point and was called a draw. Fight fans 1, fighters 0.

Then there's the unforgettable bout between Ad Wolgast and Mexican Joe Rivers on July 4, 1912. Let's let a contemporary newspaper headline gleaned from a collector's scrapbook tell it: "Rivers Robbed By The Referee"

In the 13th round, Wolgast, tired and bleeding, suddenly struck Rivers a vicious left to the groin. At the same instant, Rivers' right landed flush on Wolgast's jaw, and the champion went down and out. What happened next was mind-boggling. Referee Jack Welch helped Wolgast up while counting Rivers out! Rivers' manager called it "the worst case of robbery in the history of the American ring," and he was probably right. Vintage photos of the so-called "kayo" are at a premium. If one could find a program, it would reach $1,000. Score this one Wolgast 1, Welch 1, Rivers and fans 0.

But sometimes it isn't so blatant; it is just bad judgment. Take the first Joe Louis-Jersey Joe Walcott fight. Walcott had Louis down twice and handled him so well the rest of the fight that Louis was leaving the ring dejectedly when he had to be called back to have his hand raised in victory. Score Louis 1, judges 1, Walcott 0. The program to their second fight, though much nicer, is less rare and less valuable than the first fight. But it is also much more valuable than other Garden title defenses of Louis'.

So will the memorabilia from the Holyfield-Lewis fight (score that one Don King 1, and everybody else zippo) be pricier in 50 years than any succeeding fight they might have? Well, it depends on what happens in those fights, but, by and large, bet on it. Which of the Holyfield-Tyson fights is more collected? You bet your ear, it's the second one.

No one I know collects these sort of fights exclusively, but no one I know rejects them, either. These fights are not what the game is all about, but they are part of what makes the sport whatever it is, and so we want to remember them, too.

By the way, Dan Daniels, writing in the September 1970 issue of THE RING, listed boxing's 10 worst results as: Louis-Walcott I; Floyd Patterson-Jimmy Ellis; Jack McAuliffe-Tommy Ryan; Young Stribling-Mike McTigue I; Dick Tiger-Wilf Greaves I; James J. Jeffries-Tom Sharkey (an obvious misprint that should be Bob Fitzsimmons-Sharkey); Billy Graham-Joey Giardello II; Jack Dempsey-Luis Angel Firpo; Max Schmeling-Jack Sharkey I; and Billy Graham-Kid Gavilan IV. Just another reason you probably ought to collect THE RING, huh? ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of Boxing Collectors' News and can be contacted through his website, www.boxingcollectors.com, or at BCN, 3316 Luallen Dr., Carrollton, TX 75007.

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

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The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of February 1999, the WBC as of March 1999, and the IBF as of March 1999.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
John Ruiz (USA)	1	2	3
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	2	10	–
Vitali Klitchko (UKR)	3	8	–
David Tua (NZ)	4	–	1
Michael Grant (USA)	5	6	–
Larry Donald (USA)	6	3	4
Andrew Golota (POL)	7	12	–
Shannon Briggs (USA)	8	–	–
Axel Schulz (GER)	9	–	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	10	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	16	1	6
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	4	10
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	29	5	–
Jade Scott (USA)	15	7	–
Brian Nielsen (DEN)	23	9	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Hasim Rahman (USA)	11	–	5
Ike Ibeabuchi (NIG)	20	–	7
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	8
Ray Mercer (USA)	–	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	–	–	C
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	1	–	–
Dale Brown (CAN)	2	10	–
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	3	7	4
Ramon Garbey (CUB)	4	–	5
Bruce Scott (GB)	5	–	–
Saul Montana (MEX)	6	1	1
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	7	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	8	–	9
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	9	–	–
Andre Purlette (GUY)	10	–	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	15	2	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	3	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	16	4	–
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	5	–
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	6	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	8	–
Bruce Scott (GB)	–	9	11
Alex Gonzales (USA)	–	12	2

Stefan Anghem (SWI)	–	–	3
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	23	11	6
Gary Wilcox (USA)	–	–	7
Ken Murphy (USA)	21	–	8
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Derrick Harmon (USA)	1	7	6
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	–	–
Crawford Ashley (GB)	3	6	2
David Telesco (USA)	4	4	4
Michael Nunn (USA)	5	–	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	6	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	7	3	3
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	8	12	5
Eric Harding (USA)	9	5	10
Yawe Davis (ITA)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	–	2	–
Lincoln Carter (USA)	–	8	11
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	15	9	8
Anthony Bigeni (AUS)	–	10	–
Antonio Tarver (USA)	13	–	1
Will Taylor (USA)	–	–	7
Ray Berry (USA)	17	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Richie Woodhall (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Glenn Catley (GB)	1	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	2	4	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	3	3	1
Dean Francis (GB)	4	–	–
David Starie (GB)	5	6	10
Tarick Salmaci (LEB)	6	–	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	7	10	3
Bruno Girard (FRA)	8	2	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	9	12	5
Mario Velt (GER)	10	–	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	12	1	6
Mads Larsen (DEN)	16	5	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	7	–
Paul Smallman (AUS)	–	8	–
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	9	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	2
Rick Thornberry (AUST)	25	–	4
Bryant Brannon (USA)	–	–	7
Craig Cummings (USA)	–	–	8
Omar Sheika (USA)	20	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Robert McCracken (GB)	1	7	3
Antwun Echols (USA)	2	–	–
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	3	–	–
Keith Holmes (USA)	4	2	5
Kevin Palmer (USA)	5	–	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	6	5	4
Erland Betare (FRA)	7	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	8	–	–
Davey Hilton (CAN)	9	12	–
Alex Zaitzev (RUS)	10	–	–
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	1	9
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	3	–
Winky Wright (USA)	12	4	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	6	–
Ramon Moyano (ARG)	24	8	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	9	–
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	19	10	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2

Brian Barbosa (USA)	17	–	6
Robert Allen (USA)	18	–	7
Lansana Djallo (JUI)	–	–	8
Syd Vanderpool (CAN)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	5	C	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	–	C
Tony Marshall (USA)	1	5	–
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	2	2	–
Keith Mullings (USA)	3	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	4	1	–
Kookyui Song (KOR)	6	–	–
James Coker (USA)	7	–	–
Rodney Jones (USA)	8	8	–
Anthony Jones (USA)	9	–	–
Quirino Garcia (MEX)	10	–	–
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	3	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	–	4	–
Raul Frank (GUY)	27	6	–
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	7	8
David Reid (USA)	–	9	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	26	–	3
Raul Marquez (USA)	13	–	4
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	–	5
Yory Boy Campas (MEX)	12	–	6
Winky Wright (USA)	–	–	7
Sergio Luciano (BRA)	–	–	9
Derrick Graham (USA)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
James Page (USA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Derrell Coley (USA)	1	–	6
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	2	5	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	3	9	–
Oba Carr (USA)	4	1	5
Vernon Forrest (USA)	5	10	4
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	6	–	–
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	7	6	9
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	8	–	–
Daniel Santos (PR)	9	–	–
Marco A. Lizarraga (MEX)	10	–	–
Frank Olsen (DEN)	12	2	–
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	19	3	–
Sergio Acuna (ARG)	–	4	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	–	7	–
Michael Trabant (GERE)	26	8	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	1
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	2
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	3
Leonard Townsend (USA)	–	–	7
Michael Covington (USA)	–	–	8
Hassan Al (DEN)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Terron Millett (USA)	–	–	C
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	6	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	–	–
Reggie Green (USA)	3	4	3
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	4	–	–
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	5	–	–
Oktay Urkal (TUR)	6	–	–
Jongkil Kim (KOR)	7	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	8	2	–
Terrance Cauthen (USA)	9	–	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	10	–	6
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	1	8
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	3	11

Fred Pendleton (USA)	23	5	7
Junichi Ono (JAP)	–	7	–
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	–	8	–
Thomas Sondergaard (DEN)	–	9	–
Juan Coggi (ARG)	–	10	12
Zab Judah (USA)	–	–	1
Randall Bailey (USA)	–	–	2
Cesar Leiva (ARG)	19	–	4
Emanuel Burton (USA)	18	–	5
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	9
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	–	C	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	C
Billy Schwer (GB)	1	6	9
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	3	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	4	–	–
Israel Cardona (USA)	5	4	1
Aldo Rios (ARG)	6	9	–
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	7	–	7
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	8	–	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	9	7	–
Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	27	1	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	–	2	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	3	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	–	5	–
Edil Martinez (USA)	–	8	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	–	10	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	15	12	2
Paul Spadafora (USA)	–	–	3
John Lark (USA)	–	–	4
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	–	–	5
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	–	–	6
Renato Cornett (AUS)	–	–	8
Sandro Casamonica (ITA)	16	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	C	–	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	C	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	–	–	C
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	11	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	2	–	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	3	–	2
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	4	–	–
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	5	–	3
Jorge Barrios (ARG)	6	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	7	8	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	8	5	8
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	9	3	–
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	10	–	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	1	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	2	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	4	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	6	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	17	7	–
Florentino Campbell (PAN)	–	9	–
Genaro Rios (NIC)	–	10	–
Diego Corrales (USA)	13	–	1
John Brown (USA)	–	–	4
Calvin Davis (USA)	–	–	5
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	6
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Elmer Reales (COL)	–	–	9
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	1	11
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	2	11	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	3	–	–
Injin Chi (KOR)	4	–	–

Dramane Nabaloun (BKF)	5	–	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	6	8	–
Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)	7	–	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	8	–	–
Edgar Barcenas (MEX)	9	–	–
Hector Valaquez (MEX)	10	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	2	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	29	3	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	4	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	5	4
Paul Ingle (GB)	–	6	5
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	7	3
Radford Beasley (USA)	–	9	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	10	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	1
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	2
Steve Robinson (GB)	–	–	6
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	14	–	7
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	8
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	9
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Nestor Garza (MEX)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	1	10	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	3	8	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	4	6	5
Ariston Clayton (USA)	5	–	7
Jesus Salud (USA)	6	–	–
Kozo Ishii (JAP)	7	–	–
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	8	–	–
Willie Jorrin (USA)	9	–	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	10	–	1

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John Johnson (USA)	–	1	3
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	30	2	–
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	3	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	16	4	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	–	5	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	7	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	9	6
Vacant	–	–	2
Andrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	4
Jason Pires (USA)	–	–	8
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	12	–	9
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Johnny Tapia (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Tim Austin (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Adan Vargas (MEX)	1	4	6
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	2	–	5
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	4	2	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	5	7	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	6	–	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	7	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	8	–	–
Jess Maca (PHIL)	9	–	–
Saul Briceno (MEX)	10	–	–
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	1	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	12	3	4
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	20	5	–
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	6	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	8	–
Kozo Ishii (KOR)	–	9	–
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	24	10	–
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	–	–	1
Jesus Perez (COL)	26	–	2
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	3
Albert Resilay (INDO)	–	–	7
Mauricio Martinez (PAN)	–	–	8
Jorge Otero (COL)	–	–	9
Francisco Espita (USA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	–	12
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	3	9	–
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	4	6	2
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	5	–	–
Pone Saengmorokot (THAI)	6	–	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	7	5	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	8	1	–
Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)	9	–	–
Ricardo Barajas (MEX)	10	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Eric Morel (USA)	14	3	3
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	4	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	7	11
Nkosana Vaaltein (SA)	–	8	–
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	10	9
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	1
Pedro Pena (USA)	21	–	4
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	–	5
Libaniel Alvarez (COL)	–	–	6
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	–	7
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	8
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Hugo Soto (ARG)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	2	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	3	5	1

Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	4	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	5	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	6	7	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	7	8	8
Damaen Kelly (IRE)	8	–	–
Isidro Garcia (USA)	9	–	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	2	–
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	3	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	4	10
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	6	–
Jose Lopez Bueno (SPA)	–	9	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	10	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Pedro Alcazar (PAN)	–	–	4
Manuel Herrera (USA)	–	–	5
Luis Cox (PER)	–	–	6
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	7
Angel Priolo (COL)	–	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Will Grigsby (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Yosam Choi (KOR)	1	9	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	2	1	2
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	4	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	4	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	5	–	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	6	3	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	7	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	8	–	–
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	9	–	11
Bebis Mendoza (COL)	10	–	–
Medngon 3K Battery (THAI)	11	2	12
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	–	5	–
Panieng Okuda (JAP)	–	6	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	7	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	20	8	10
Jake Matlala (SA)	16	10	–
Pedro Rodriguez (COL)	–	–	1
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	–	–	3
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	4
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	5
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	6
Asdrubal Velasquez (COL)	–	–	7
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	–	8
Hector Chavez (MEX)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**C**	**C**	**–**
Zolani Petelo (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	1	9	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	2	–	2
Daniel Reyes (COL)	3	12	10
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	4	–	–
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	5	–	1
Satoru Abe (JAP)	6	3	–
Jun Arlos (PHIL)	7	–	–
Chartchai Nokomton-Parkview (THAI)	8	–	–
Erdene Chuluun (MON)	9	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	–	2	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	4	5
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	5	–
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	–	6	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	7	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	–	8	–
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	29	10	–
Eric Jamili (PHIL)	–	–	3
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	6
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	7
Jose Laureano (PR)	–	–	8
Mongol Chareon (THAI)	–	–	9

CLASSIC

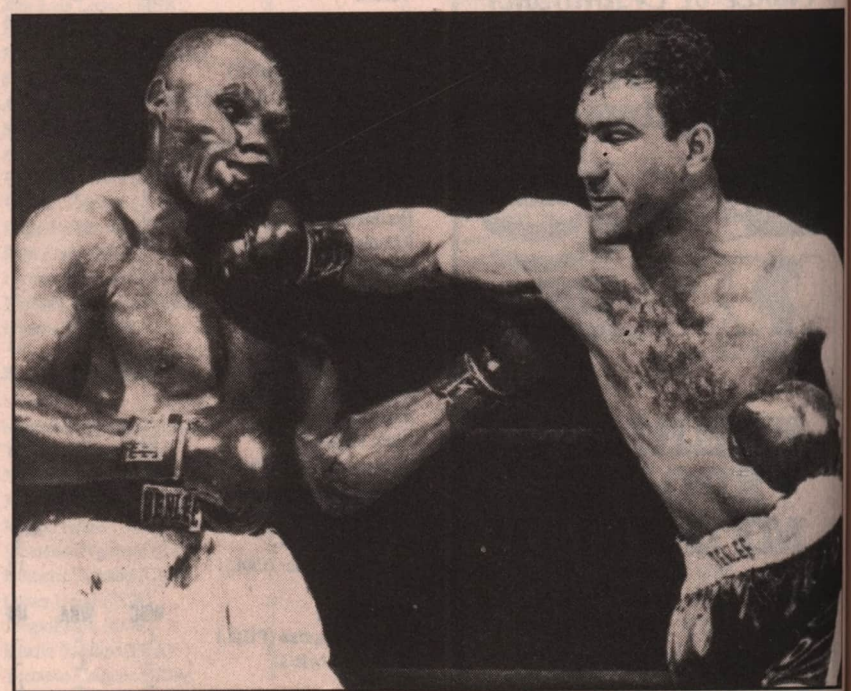
WAS MARCIANO THE GREATEST HEAVYWEIGHT?

By Nat Fleischer

How good was Rocky Marciano, heavyweight champion of the world from September 23, 1952, when he knocked out Jersey Joe Walcott in the 13th round, until, undefeated in 49 consecutive fights, he retired on April 27, 1956?

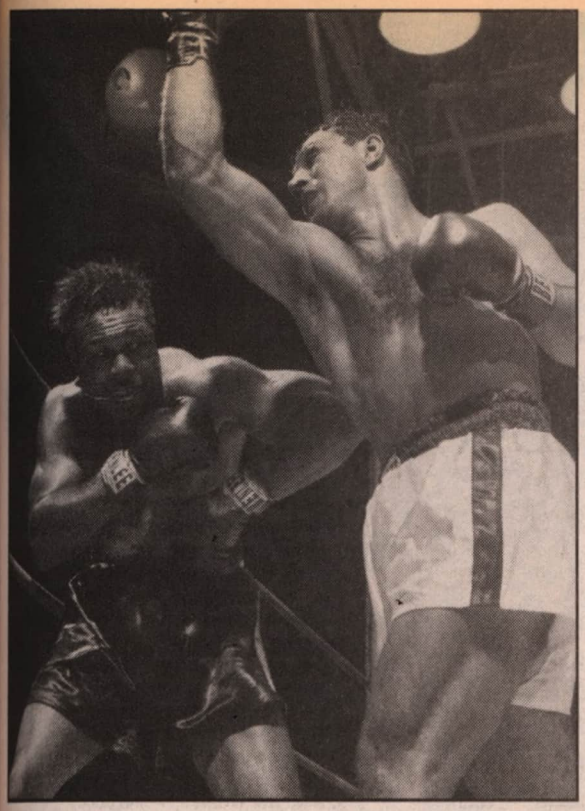
This is not to be regarded as a challenge to Marciano, or his class, his memory, his exemplary standing as a fighter, gentleman, quality technician, power puncher, and friend. Rather, this is a studied review of Marciano's fistic rating in the face of claims made for him in the direction of heights that were not universally claimed for him before he crashed in a small private plane near Newton, Iowa, on the night of August 31, the eve of his 46th birthday.

There are students of boxing—knowing ones, too—who insist that Marciano came close to being the number-one heavyweight of all-time. There are others—knowing ones, too—who view Marciano's achievements and class in a more proper perspective. The man from whom Marciano took the championship at Philadelphia, the clever Walcott, was a masterful technician.



Rocky Marciano was the only heavyweight champion to retire undefeated. He reigned from September 23, 1952, when he knocked out Jersey Joe Walcott in the 13th round, until April 27, 1956. Was "The Brockton Blockbuster" the greatest heavyweight champion?

From THE RING, December 1969



Marciano defended the title five times. His last title defense—and final fight ever—was a ninth-round knockout of Archie Moore in 1955. Due to family pressure, Marciano finally hung up his gloves.

But Marciano was the harder hitter, and thereby hangs his rating.

The six men whom Marciano failed to stop were Don Mogard, Providence, 10 rounds, May 23, 1949; Ted Lowry, Providence, 10 rounds, October 10, 1949; Roland LaStarza, New York, 10 rounds, March 24, 1950; Lowry, a second time, Providence, 10 rounds, November 13, 1950; Red Applegate, Providence, 10 rounds, April 30, 1951; and Ezzard Charles, New York, 15 rounds, June 17, 1954.

Marciano defended the world title only five times, and Charles was the one challenger who went the distance with him. Those whom champion Marciano stopped were: LaStarza, 11 rounds; Charles, eight rounds; Don Cockell, nine rounds; and Archie Moore, nine rounds.

Only twice during his title tenure was Marciano knocked down. He hit the deck for four in the second round of the Moore fight, and took a count of two in his first encounter with Walcott, in the opening round.

After family pressure had induced Marciano to hang up his gloves, there was no strident claim for all-time supremacy on behalf of Marciano. However, in 1967, the Woroner people in Miami jammed the records of all the heavyweight greats into a giant computer, and in December of that year came up with an electronic meeting of Marciano and Jack Dempsey in the final of the imaginary tournament. Much to the amazement of even those who had viewed the computer fights as nothing more than machine-made fantasies, the title meeting produced a 15-round knockout of Dempsey.

An iconoclastic machine had confounded the experts and challenged them to defend the lesser role in the all-time ratings, which they had been according to Marciano. The experts were taunted by critics from all over the world.

"A fat lot you guys know, when a machine can make suckers of you and tell the true story," was the general format of retorts that poured into THE RING and still do.

However, the computer's evidence certainly finds no place in the final assessment of Marciano's skill, power, and comparative position among the greatest heavyweights. Dead or alive, Marciano has to be reckoned with as a powerful entity in the history of boxing, and in the annals of the unlimited weight division. But to raise him out of 10th place would be a presumption that could not possibly be supported by the facts, by the records, by Marciano himself if he were around to discuss that topic.

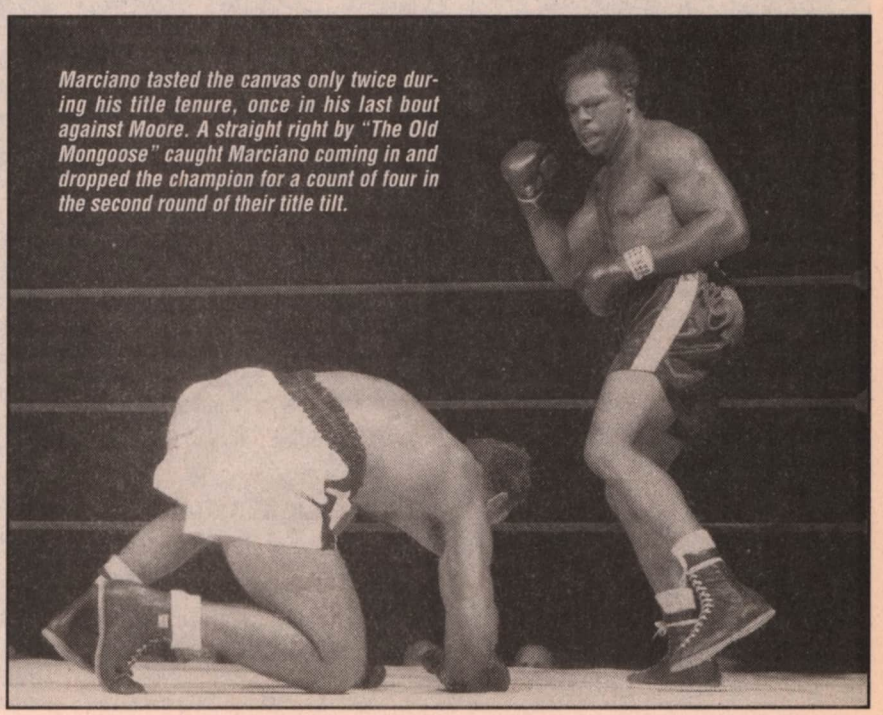
The man never claimed superlative mastery for himself. He was modest, he was accomplished, he was great, a splendid battler, a game competitor, a faultless husband, and a dutiful father. I will miss him very much as a friend.

Why is my rating of Marciano no better than 10th? This may demand an explanation.

A fighter's location in the world ratings is arrived at through assessment of his punching power, his stamina, boxing ability, rallying determination, ability to recover from punishing blows, a deadly flair for the fast knockout, scientific recovery from threatening difficulties, and ardent pursuit of his profession.

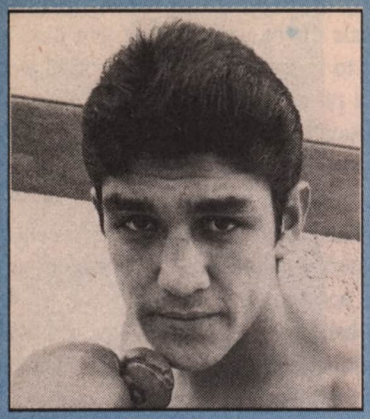
Broadly considered, all this comes down to judgment on the basis of two main categories—boxing skill and knockout power. Rated on the basis of power, Marciano rightly belongs much higher than 10th. Just where has yet to be determined. Possibly in the company of Dempsey and Louis.

In the matter of boxing skill, finesse,



Marciano tasted the canvas only twice during his title tenure, once in his last bout against Moore. A straight right by "The Old Mongoose" caught Marciano coming in and dropped the champion for a count of four in the second round of their title tilt.

THE RING RATINGS, December 1969



Mando Ramos

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Cassius Clay, Houston, TX
1. **Joe Frazier**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Jimmy Ellis**, Louisville, KY
3. **Sonny Liston**, Las Vegas, NV
4. **Jerry Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Oscar Bonavena**, Argentina
6. **Mac Foster**, Fresno, CA
7. **Henry Cooper**, England
8. **Al Jones**, Perrine, FL
9. **Gregorio Peralta**, Argentina
10. **Leotis Martin**, Philadelphia, PA

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Bob Foster, Washington, D.C.
1. **Dick Tiger**, Biafra
2. **Ray Anderson**, Akron, OH
3. **Mark Tessman**, Houston, TX
4. **Jimmy Dupree** Jersey City, NJ
5. **Yvan Prebeg**, Yugoslavia
6. **Bob Dunlop**, Australia
7. **Andy Kendall**, Portland, OR
8. **Hal Carroll**, Syracuse, NY
9. **Eddie Avoth**, Wales
10. **Eddie Jones**, Los Angeles, CA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nino Benvenuti, Italy
1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami Beach, FL
2. **Freddie Little**, Las Vegas, NV
3. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
4. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
5. **Tom Bogs**, Denmark
6. **Juan Carlos Duran**, Italy
7. **Don Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
8. **Fraser Scott**, Seattle, WA
9. **Carlos Monzon**, Argentina
10. **Doyle Baird**, Akron, OH

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jose Napoles, Mexico
1. **Manuel Gonzalez**, Odessa, TX
2. **Hedgemon Lewis**, Detroit, MI
3. **Percy Pugh**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX
5. **Ernie Lopez**, Las Vegas, NV
6. **Johann Orsolics**, Austria
7. **Raul Rodriguez**, Mexico
8. **Billy Backus**, Syracuse, NY
9. **Miguel Barreto**, Puerto Rico
10. **Jerry Pellegrini**, New Orleans, LA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nicolino Loche, Argentina
1. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
2. **Joao Henrique**, Brazil
3. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
4. **German Gastelbondo**, Colombia
5. **Turk Kamaci**, Austria
6. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
7. **Eugenio Espinoza**, Ecuador
8. **Barrera Corpas**, Spain
9. **Horacio Saldano**, Argentina
10. **Larry Harding**, Los Angeles, CA

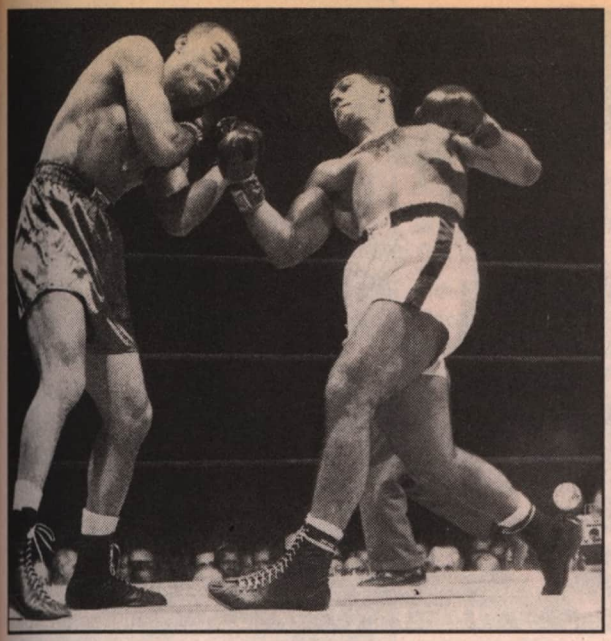
LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Mando Ramos, Long Beach, CA
1. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
2. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
3. **Jaguar Kakizawa**, Japan
4. **Arturo Lomeli**, Mexico
5. **Ken Buchanan**, Scotland
6. **Carlos (Teo) Cruz**, Dominican Republic
7. **Carlos Aro**, Argentina
8. **Chango Carmona**, Mexico
9. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
10. **Frankie Narvaez**, Puerto Rico

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Hiroshi Kobayashi, Japan
1. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Antonio Amaya**, Panama
3. **Yoshiaka Numata**, Japan
4. **Alton Colter**, Phoenix, AZ
5. **Silvero Ortiz**, Mexico
6. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines
7. **Alfredo Marcano**, Venezuela
8. **Ray Echavarria**, San Jose, CA
9. **Ricardo Lescano**, Argentina
10. **Carlos Canete**, Argentina

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Johnny Famechon, Australia
1. **Shozo Saijyo**, Japan
2. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
3. **Cruz Marcano**, Venezuela
4. **Jose Legra**, Spain
5. **Fighting Harada**, Japan
6. **Dwight Hawkins**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Felipe Torres**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Antonio Gomez**, Venezuela
9. **Kuniaki Shibata**, Japan
10. **Jimmy Revie**, England

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ruben Olivares, Mexico
1. **Lionel Rose**, Australia
2. **Chucho Castillo**, Mexico
3. **Alan Rudkin**, England
4. **Takao Sakurai**, Japan
5. **Rudy Alarcon**, Philippines
6. **Katsuyoshi Takayama**, Japan
7. **Kazuyoshi Kanazawa**, Japan
8. **Julio Guerrero**, Mexico
9. **Raul Cruz**, Mexico
10. **Leo Calderon**, Mexico

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alacran Efren Torres, Mexico
1. **Berkrerk Chartvanchai**, Thailand
2. **Hiroyuki Ebihara**, Japan
3. **Susumu Hanagata**, Japan
4. **Fermin Gomez**, Mexico
5. **Raton Mojica**, Nicaragua
6. **Chartchai Chionoi**, Thailand
7. **Bernabe Villacampo**, Philippines
8. **Jose Luis Cetina**, Mexico
9. **Arturo Hernandez**, Mexico
10. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico



Based on power, Marciano certainly deserves to be placed among the all-time greats like Jack Dempsey and Joe Louis. Marciano beat a past-his-prime Louis in October of 1951, but could he have taken "The Brown Bomber" the night he tore into Max Schmeling in 1938?

and acutely defensive rarities, he did not achieve sufficient command to lift him out of 10th place. Marciano, as the world champion, had consummate strength and muscular prowess. He had outstanding stamina. He never went into a ring out of condition. He pursued an ascetic life as top title contender and then as champion. Marciano could dish it out, and he could take it. This highly valuable combination of abilities made him as dangerous a foe as the heavyweight class has produced.

In assessing Marciano's all-time location we must examine him in his surroundings as a contender and as a titleholder. It is apparent that Marciano did not have the quality of competition that existed during Dempsey's and Tunney's heydays.

He caught Louis well past his peak in October 1951, and had nine years on "The Brown Bomber." Could Marciano have stopped Louis when he knocked out Max Schmeling in the first round? It's a good question. Could Marciano have beaten Gene Tunney the rainy night the Marine took the title away from Dempsey? That's another good question. Dempsey could sock, Tunney could box.

In any event, comparisons aside and conclusions based on fancies barred, the fact remains that "The Rock" was one of the best, one of the most determined, one of the gamest fighters the sour science has produced.

A visit with Marciano during training for a title fight was a delightful experience. No swank, no pretense, no bunk, no putting on airs. He assessed himself at his sincere worth. He withheld no replies, he was clean and cooperative, unpretentious and sincere, truthful and never evasive.

Marciano and Al Weill, his crafty manager, broke up just as Dempsey and Jack Kearns severed their partnership. No matter what the reasons for the break with "The Brockton Blockbuster," the fact is that Weill did a clever job of directing Marciano through the mazes of preparation for the title, and through his five bouts in defense. Now, Marciano is gone, and Weill is in a nursing home with nothing but good things to say about his onetime charge, if he would say them.

With Marciano gone, we have 11 heavyweight champions—Cassius Clay, Sonny Liston, Floyd Patterson, Ingemar Johansson, Walcott, Charles, Louis, Jim Braddock, Jack Sharkey, Tunney, and Dempsey.

Marciano is the second former titleholder to die a violent death. Johnson was the first. Jack died in June 1946 in an automobile smashup near Raleigh, North Carolina. He was a speed nut.

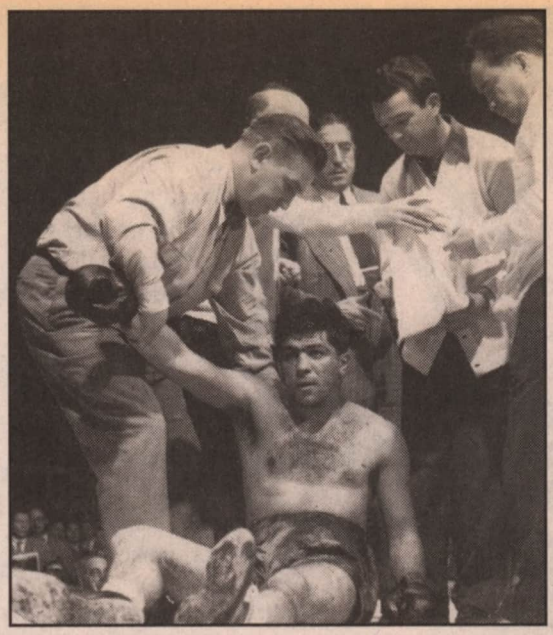
Although, in April 1956, Marciano found nobody worthwhile challenging him, and discovered himself in a plight that prompted James J. Jeffries to announce his retirement in July 1905, it is conceivable that Rocky would have continued in the ring if Barbara, his wife, and his mother, Lena, had not beseeched him to quit. Mrs. Rocky pleaded for a home life and a family solidarity that were denied to her and her daughter Mary, now 16, and his folks. Marciano confessed that he had tired of the long training regimen and, in the interest of family harmony, quit the ring at the age of 33.

This left the title up for grabs, and Patterson and Moore started grabbing. They met in Chicago on November 30, 1956, and much to the surprise of the experts, "The Mongoose" could not untrack himself and was topped in five rounds.

Marciano was unable to find anyone worth challenging him in April of '56, and confessed he was tired of long training regimens. Flanked by former manager Al Weill on his right and trainer Charley Goldman to his left, Marciano announced his retirement.

Rocky Marciano's Career Record

1947		
March 17	Lee Epperson	KO 3
1948		
July 12	Harry Balzerain	KO 1
July 19	John Edwards	KO 1
Aug. 9	Bobby Quinn	KO 3
Aug. 23	Eddie Ross	KO 1
Aug. 30	Jimmy Weeks	KO 1
Sept. 13	Jerry Jackson	KO 1
Sept. 20	Bill Hardeman	KO 1
Sept. 30	Gil Cardione	KO 1
Oct. 4	Bob Jefferson	KO 2
Nov. 29	Patrick Connolly	KO 1
Dec. 14	Gilley Ferron	KO 2
1949		
March 21	Johnny Pretzie	KO 5
March 28	Artie Donato	KO 1
April 11	James Walls	KO 3
May 2	Jimmy Evans	KO 3
May 23	Don Mogard	W 10
July 18	Harry Haft	KO 3
Aug. 16	Pete Luthis	KO 3
Sept. 26	Tommy DiGiorgio	KO 4
Oct. 10	Ted Lowry	W 10
Nov. 7	Joe Dominic	KO 2
Dec. 2	Pat Richards	KO 2
Dec. 19	Phil Muscato	KO 5
Dec. 30	Carmine Vingo	KO 6
1950		
March 24	Roland LaStarza	W 10
June 5	Eldridge Eatman	KO 3
July 10	Gino Buonvino	KO 10
Sept. 18	Johnny Shkor	KO 6
Nov. 13	Ted Lowry	W 10
Dec. 18	Bill Wilson	KO 1
1951		
Jan. 29	Keene Simmons	KO 8
March 20	Harold Mitchell	KO 2
March 26	Art Henri	KO 9
April 30	Red Applegate	W 10
July 12	Rex Layne	KO 6
Aug. 27	Freddie Beshore	KO 4
Oct. 26	Joe Louis	KO 8
1952		
Feb. 13	Lee Savold	KO 6
April 21	Gino Buonvino	KO 2
May 12	Bernie Reynolds	KO 3
July 28	Harry Matthews	KO 2
Sept. 23	Joe Walcott	KO 13
1953		
May 15	Joe Walcott	KO 1
Sept. 24	Roland LaStarza	KO 11
1954		
June 17	Ezzard Charles	W 15
Sept. 17	Ezzard Charles	KO 8
1955		
May 16	Don Cockell	KO 9
Sept. 21	Archie Moore	KO 9



Marciano's December 30, 1949, fight with Carmine Vingo resulted in a near-tragic ending when Marciano sent Vingo to the hospital after recording a sixth-round kayo. Vingo was the 23rd kayo victim in Marciano's first 25 pro fights.

The professional boxing situation pleaded for a power puncher, and that is just what Rocco Marchegiano became. Gene Caggiano, in Brockton, spotted the Golconda that lay in Marciano's fists and moved him into the pro ranks on March 17, 1947. Marciano met Lee Epperson in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and demolished him in three rounds. Fighting exclusively in Providence, Marciano registered seven straight kayos. On September 30, 1948, Marciano ventured afield and scored a one-round kayo over Gil Cardione in Washington.

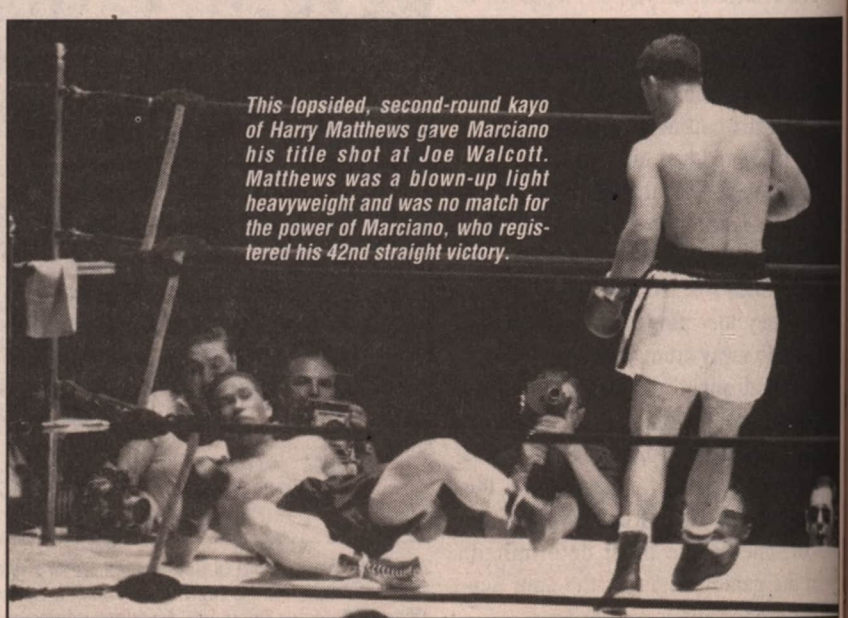
It wasn't long before Caggiano was ousted as Marciano's manager. The precise details of this takeover never have been dug out. Weill moved in, and there was more frequent mention in the sports pages about a burly strong boy in Brockton named Marciano.

Every now and then, Marciano promised a book on his career. Weill planned a movie. Neither the book nor the biographical picture developed.

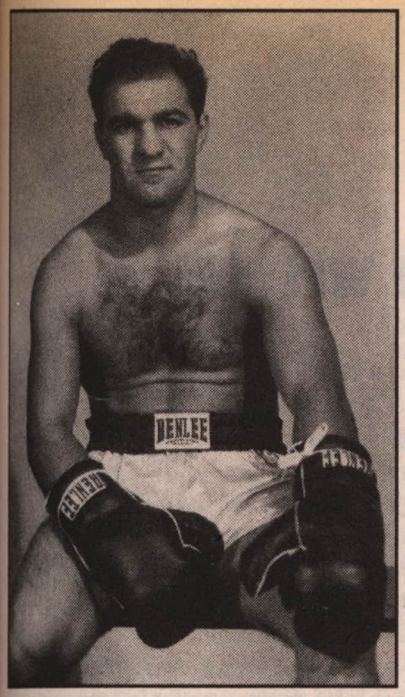
Marciano's first love was baseball. He signed up with the farm system of the Cubs, but got a sore arm—and sore-arm catchers were virtually useless, as they still are. Marciano went from muscle job to job. For a year he laid gas mains in Brockton. Then he became interested in boxing, and developed quite a reputation as an amateur. He lost only one bout in the watches and medals ranks, to Coley Wallace.

As Marciano hung up one kayo after another, he posed a mystery. He could not stop a heavyweight named Ted Lowry. Lowry held him off in a couple of 10 rounders in Providence.

Then, on December 2, 1949, Rocky Marciano, Al Weill's prodigy, invaded New York and knocked out Pat Richards in two rounds. A five-round kayo of Phil Muscato in Providence was followed by a near tragedy against Carmine Vingo in



This lopsided, second-round kayo of Harry Matthews gave Marciano his title shot at Joe Walcott. Matthews was a blown-up light heavyweight and was no match for the power of Marciano, who registered his 42nd straight victory.



In a career that spanned nine years, Marciano had 49 fights, winning them all. He recorded 43 knockouts, including kayos in four of his five heavyweight title defenses.

New York. Vingo was hurt seriously in six rounds. He spent a long time in the hospital. Marciano contributed $2,500 to help pay the bills. The Vingo fight was only a semi-final. On March 24, 1950, Marciano's career took a big upturn. He fought a more skilled boxer named Roland LaStarza, and while "The Brockton Strong Boy" got the verdict after 10, there was some squawking.

Marciano now found himself attracting widespread attention from the Missouri Boys, who demanded that he show them. Show them he did from then on. He scored three straight kayos, over Eldridge Eatman, Gino Buonvino, and Johnny Shkor, and then came the second meeting with Lowry. Four more kayos included an eight-round stoppage of Keene Simmons.

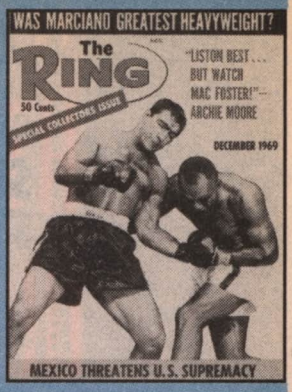
On April 30, 1951, Marciano scored his most important victory to date. He knocked out Rex Layne in the Garden in New York in six rounds. Marciano was on his way. A four-round kayo of Freddie Beshore was followed by his kayo over Louis in eight rounds. The ancient Brown Bomber had retired in March 1949, but had returned to the ring on September 27, 1950, in a losing effort against Charles.

It was Louis' last fight. He had little left, and standing up to Marciano for some 24 minutes was quite a feat in gameness and endurance. Marciano deposited Louis ignominiously on the ring apron, and the Louis book was closed. Marciano was moving fast and with certainty in the direction of the world championship.

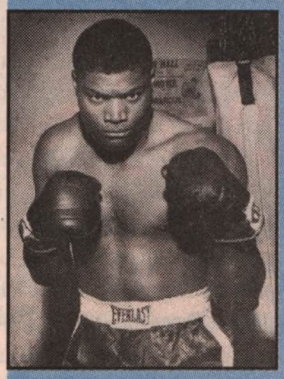
On February 13, Marciano stopped Lee Savold in Philadelphia, in six rounds. Then Weill dug up Buonvino for a second shot. Marciano had stopped Buonvino in 10 in Boston. This time, in Providence, Buonvino lasted five minutes.

In his next appearance, Marciano disposed of Bernie Reynolds in three rounds in Rhode Island. This was followed by a fight that was more or less a hoax, a puffed up affair, which demonstrated the power of ballyhoo. Jack Hurley's blown up light heavy, Harry Matthews, was sent against Marciano in New York, and it was a wonder that the Pacific Coaster lasted out the first round. He was starched in the second. This victory was the world title fight springboard for Marciano. He was matched with champion Walcott for September 23, in Philadelphia. ■

THE RING, December 1969

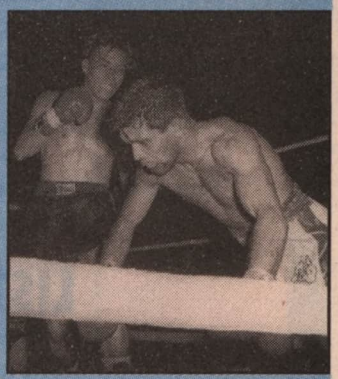


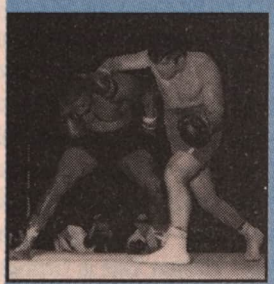
The Cover: This issue recalled the amazing career of Rocky Marciano, who was killed in a plane crash in Iowa on August 31, 1969. As part of a special 16-page section, Marciano's many memorable moments in the ring were brought back to life through a collage of pictures, illustrating "The Brockton Blockbuster's" devastating power.



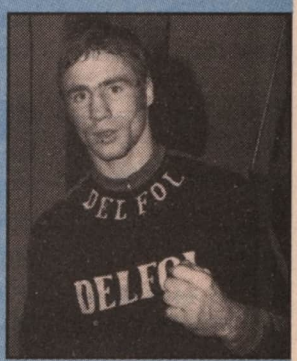
Big Mac Attack: Light heavyweight champ Archie Moore voiced his opinion as to who to watch among the current crop of heavyweights. Moore gave a resounding vote for Mac Foster as the top prospect in the division. The murderous punching Foster, Moore felt, had the potential to be the best heavyweight in the world.

Mexico Threatens United States: Mexico was possibly at its zenith in international boxing in the late-1960s, as dominant as the United States. Mexico had champions Alacran Efren Torres (flyweight), Jose Napoles (welterweight), Ruben Olivares (bantamweight, pictured beating Lionel Rose for the title), and Mexican-born California resident Mando Ramos (lightweight).





Quitting Quarry?: Jerry Quarry, shown beating Buster Mathis in March of '69, announced his retirement. Inside information suggested Quarry was using this tactic as a ploy to get away from co-manager Johnny Flores.



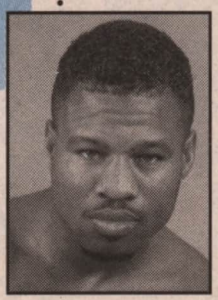
Fighter Of The Month: Denmark's Tom Bogs, the European middleweight champion, won a 15-round decision over the very able Juan Carlos Duran in Copenhagen. The victory set up a possible meeting for Bogs with Italy's Nino Benvenuti, the reigning world middleweight champ at the time.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

SUGAR SHANE: STRAIGHT TO WELTER, STRAIGHT TO OSCAR

A lot of boxing experts like to say **Sugar Shane Mosley** reminds them of an old-time fighter, his utter class inside and outside the ring conjuring images of black-and-white film reels of the greats. And true to that classic form, Mosley recently declared his intention to move up in weight as if there were still only the eight traditional divisions. Mosley was set to vacate the IBF lightweight title as we were going to press and, without making a serious stopover at junior welterweight, move straight up to 147 pounds. The goal: a December showdown with **Oscar De La Hoya**.



Mosley: California dreamin' of De La Hoya

"If he's a man, if he wants to prove himself, Oscar's gotta give me a shot," Mosley said. "People throughout California keep asking, 'Oscar, when are you gonna fight Shane? Shane, when are you gonna fight Oscar?' It will be a spectacular fight to have before the new millennium. We gotta do it."

For his eighth and final lightweight title defense, a TKO win over **John Brown** in April, Mosley weighed 151 pounds at fight time, 16 more than the 135 he had painfully boiled down to the day before. He walks around in the 155-160 range between fights, and though Sugar Shane could make 140 if he had a good reason to, the real attraction is "The Golden Boy" at Mosley's most natural class, welterweight. For Mosley's first post-title reign fight, on ABC on June 19, he said he wanted to weigh about 142 pounds. The plan was to then fight on September 25 at the L.A. County Fairgrounds—maybe for a junior welter title, but don't count on it—in a final prelude to filling De La Hoya's open December date at Los Angeles' new Staples Center.

Should De La Hoya and promoter **Bob Arum** be convinced to give Mosley the shot, it would not be the first in-ring meeting for these two superstars from California. Back when they were still schoolboys, when Mosley and De La Hoya were prodigies aged 13 and 11, respectively, Sugar Shane emerged victorious in an amateur clash in which all he can remember is that he was "more energetic." Approximately 15 years later, Mosley will probably have to again be more energetic, hoping his speed and athleticism will offset De La Hoya's likely power advantage.

"It will probably be my toughest fight, but that's part of why I want it," Mosley said. "Of course I want it because of the huge payday, but I also want it because it will be a defining fight for me and because it will give me the recognition I've been waiting for."

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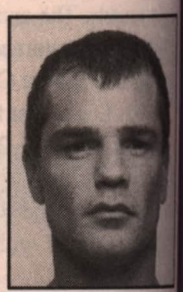


Ottke: A date with Tate

It wasn't *quite* finalized yet when we went to press, but it looks like November 13 in Las Vegas for **Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis II** ... **Tony Ayala Jr.'s** much-anticipated first post-prison fight is scheduled for July 31 on SET pay-per-view, as a co-feature to the rescheduled **Erik Morales-Wayne McCullough** WBC super bantamweight title fight. The card will take place in Ayala's hometown, San Antonio, Texas ... Two issues ago, I wrote in this space that **Fernando Vargas** might be making his second defense of the IBF 154-pound title against **Ike Quartey**. Then I corrected myself last issue and said it looked like **Bronco McKart**. Well, that turned out to be wrong, too. Main Events officially announced in May that Vargas will be meeting former title-holder **Raul Marquez** on July 17 in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Marquez seems the easiest—but potentially the most entertaining—of the three possible opponents ... **Sven Ottke** will defend the IBF super middle title against mandatory challenger **Thomas Tate** in Germany on September 4, with the winner to meet former champ **Charles Brewer** sometime in the winter.

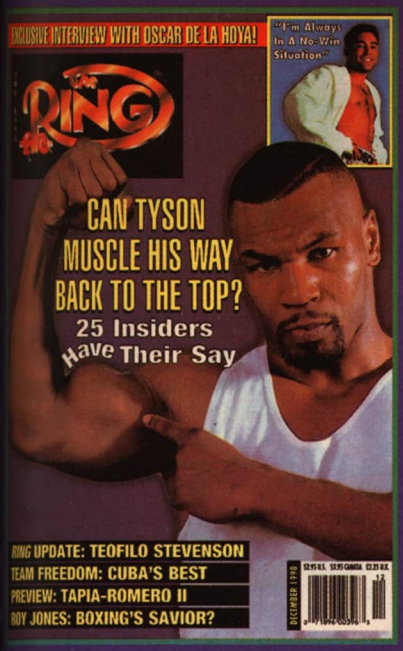
FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Las Vegas Hilton

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Shane Mosley	Steve Johnston	4-1	Johnston beats all lightweights but one
Fernando Vargas	Raul Marquez	3½-1	Vargas now a force in boxing
Erik Morales	Nestor Garza	4½-1	Garza beats a lot of guys, but not Morales
Nestor Garza	Juan Carlos Ramirez	3-1	Garza has too many tools



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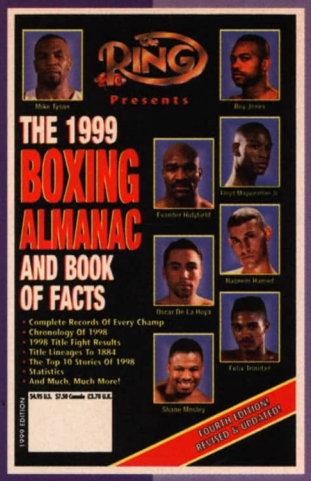

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